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Tom Brady is far from the first all-time great to leave the team he helped define

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**SPORTS** 

# STARS

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#### VIRUS OUTBREAK



The USNS Comfort returns to Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia on Nov. 15 after assisting partner nations in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. The Navy is sending the hospital ship to New York to take non-COVID-19 patients, easing the trauma treatment load on civilian hospitals, but it will take two weeks for the ship to get there. The Army will set up field hospitals in New York City and Seattle.

## American troops' role in response to coronavirus growing

By ROBERT BURNS AND LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon's role in responding to the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. began to rapidly expand Wednesday as officials announced that two Navy hospital ships and two Army field hospitals were preparing to deploy to help overburdened regions.

The latest moves are aimed at taking the pressure off local hospitals so that they can free up rooms and staff to deal with virus patients. Military hospital ships and field units are geared toward treating trauma cases.

The military moves, however, face limits. It will take as long as two weeks for the USNS Comfort hospital ship to get to New York City, where Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been pressing for medical help.



Sailors assigned to the USNS Mercy participate in a medical readiness drill in December in San Diego. The ship will stay on the West Coast to help communities battling coronavirus. Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, the surgeon for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the military's assistance decisions will be based on what local leaders need and will mainly involve active-duty personnel.

CAMERON PINSKE/U.S. Navy

## Afghanistan deployments halted amid virus concerns

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan - The U.S.-led NATO mission in Afghanistan has stopped deploying troops to the country and has placed about 1,500 newly arrived service members and civilians into quarantine to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, military officials said Thursday.

The new measures mean some troops already in Afghanistan will have their deployments extended, a NATO Resolute Support statement said.

The announcement comes after some U.S. lawmakers last week voiced concerns that U.S. troops in Afghanistan were not properly protected from the pandemic.

The Resolute Support mission, which advises and assists Afghan security forces, said Thursday it was establishing screenings to test troops before they are sent to Afghanistan.

More training of Afghan forces will also be done online to help prevent the spread of the virus, the statement said. NATO emphasized that the new

arrivals in quarantine are there as a precaution and "not because they are sick."

"Our priorities are clear: protecting the force and protecting our collective national interests, the statement said.

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**US-led** coalition in Iraq suspends training mission

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More coronavirus coverage on Pages 4-14

SEE BUILDUP ON PAGE 8

## **BUSINESS/WEATHER**

第3種郵便物設可

EUROPE GAS PRICES									
Country Germany Change in price	\$2.511 -12.7 cents	Super unleaded \$2.952 -10.9 cents	Super plus \$3.204 -11.3 cents	<b>Diesel</b> \$2.996 -8.1 cents	Azores Change in price			\$3.195 -11.3 cents	-
Netherlands Change in price	:	\$3.455 -28.9 cents	\$3.665 -29.6 cents	\$3.590 -28.8 cents	Belgium Change in price		\$2.762 No change	\$3.035 No change	\$2.930 No change
U.K. Change in price	:	\$2.862 -10.9 cents	\$3.114 -11.3 cents	\$2.906 -8.1 cents	Turkey Change in price		=	\$3.005 -11.3 cents	\$2.797* -8.1 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES									
Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel					
Japan		\$2.999		\$2.789	South Korea	\$2.329		\$3.029	\$2.819
Change in price		-11.0 cents		-8.0 cents	Change in price	-13.0 cents		-11.0 cents	-8.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.299			\$2.789	Guam	\$2.309**	\$2.749	\$3.009	

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Singapore (Dollar) .. South Korea (Won)







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KATAYANAGI

## **MILITARY**

# **US pounds militant targets in Somalia**

By John Vandiver Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany The U.S. launched five airstrikes over two days against al-Shabab militants in Somalia who were preparing to battle Americanbacked troops in a city south of Mogadishu, U.S. Africa Command said Thursday. "These precision airstrikes targeted members of the al-Qaidaaligned terrorist network as they massed and maneuvered in the vicinity of an ongoing Somali-led ground operation," AFRICOM said in a statement Thursday.

The militants targeted in the strikes Monday and Tuesday posed a "direct threat" to Somali security forces, AFRICOM said. American troops were in the area "to advise and assist" the Soma-

"We eliminated terrorists posing a direct and immediate threat, allowing our African partners to maintain the momentum on the ground," said Maj. Gen. William Gayler, AFRICOM's director of

No civilians were believed to

have been killed in the operation, AFRICOM said.

It did not say how many al-Shabab fighters were killed in the

attack.

AFRICOM has stepped up its campaign in Somalia in recent years, carrying out a record 63 airstrikes in 2019.

With around 25 strikes launched against militants in the Horn of

Africa country in the first three months of 2020, U.S. airstrikes in Somalia this year look to be on track to outpace last year's tally.

The U.S. is also training Somali military units in the hope that they will eventually be able to counter al-Shabab on their own.

vandiver.john@stripes.com Twitter: @john\_vandiver

## Okinawa church to read names of 241K killed in WWII battle

By MATTHEW M. BURKE Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa
— All Souls Anglican Episcopal
Church in Chatan is seeking assistance from the U.S. military
community for its 75th anniversary ceremony memorializing
more than 241,000 people of all
nationalities who perished during the bloody Battle of Okinawa
in 1945.

Beginning at 12:30 p.m. on March 26, the church plans to commence reading the names of every American, Japanese, Okinawan, British, Talwanese and Korean victim of the battle — sometimes called the typhood of steel — continuing daily until Okinawa Memorial Day, June 23, the same day as Okinawa prefecture's 75th annual Irei no Hi ceremony at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park.

The church is calling for volunteers to recite each name, civilian and military, of those the prefecture recognizes as having perished due to the fighting, said All Souls rector, the Rev. Irene Tanabe. The names will be read each day from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The readings will be preceded by prayer and a ceremonial bell ringing.

"We need as many people as possible," Tanabe said. "They do not have to be military or American or religious even."

The church needs one officiant

to lead prayers for each service and as many readers as they can find, Tanabe said. She is hoping to get between two and 10 for each service.

All Souls last recited the names of the dead beginning March 31, 1995, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle, Tanabe said. That reading was the brainchild of then rector, the Rev. Timothy Nakayama, who died last summer.

"I thought it would be good to honor Father Tim's legacy and repeat the reading of the names for this milestone year," Tanabe caid.

All Souls' sanctuary, where the ceremony will take place, can hold 180 people, Tanabe said. The names will be read from the news

Volunteers will be given a sheet of names to read, Tanabe said. The time commitment is about an hour per reader.

All Souls was founded in 1958 by missionaries from the Epis-copal Church, Tanabe said. It is a cross-cultural ministry that promotes relationships between Americans and Okinawans. It is an English-speaking parish with materials and liturgy translated into Japanese.

"All Souls Church was named for the war dead — from all nations," Tanabe said. "In this way, each of these soldiers are our 'patron saint."

The Battle of Okinawa began April 1, 1945, and lasted 82 days.



Aya Ichihashi/Stars and Stripes

Haruko Arakaki attends the annual Irei no Hi ceremony at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park every year to speak to her father, who was lost during the Battle of Okinawa.

It claimed more than 14,000 American lives during or after the fighting, about 110,000 Japanese troops and at least 140,000 Okinawan civilians, though the total number of civilian deaths may never be known.

The battle spelled utter devastation for the people of Okinawa, and its reverberations can still be felt in the island's passionate antiwar movement.

For the Allies, however, it was pivotal. With airfields close to the Japanese mainland in their possession, they could begin the final assault on the Japanese homeland that would end World War II, which began with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor 3½ years earlier.

The war ended several months after the Battle of Okinawa.



110

American troops take cover behind a bullet-pocked statue during the Battle of Okinawa. The ferocious battle lasted from April 1 until June 22, 1945.

Those interested in volunteering can get more information by calling 098-936-8970, emailing

info@allsoulsokinawa.org or visiting www.allsoulsokinawa.com.

## US naval officer files lawsuit over military's transgender ban

Associated Press

BOSTON — A U.S. naval officer who is facing involuntary discharge because of a policy restricting transgender people from military service has filed a lawsuit that aims to force defense officials to allow her to continue serving.

The federal lawsuit, filed Tuesday, is the first legal challenge to the policy since rules went into effect in April 2019, stripping transgender troops of rights they

secured under the Obama administration to serve openly and to have their medical transitions covered in their health benefits, lawyers said.

The officer, a transgender woman stationed in Massachusetts, is seeking to transition and serve in the Navy as a woman, the lawsuit says.

"This is a moment when we need all hands on deck, and there is absolutely no justification for discharging somebody who is continuing to meet all standards and wants to continue to serve," said Jennifer Levi, transgender rights director for GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders.

A Department of Defense spokeswoman said that it is aware of the lawsuit and is reviewing the filings.

Under the new policy, people who have undergone gender transition are banned from enlisting, and military members who come out as transgender and seek a transition face discharge. Service members must serve under the gender they were assigned at birth unless they began a transition under less restrictive Obama administration rules.

administration rules.
Four other lawsuits seeking to
overturn the policy are pending
in court and are expected to go
to trial, but the Supreme Court
last year ruled that the ban could
go into effect while the cases

The latest lawsuit only seeks

relief for the officer, who is not named in legal documents to "minimize risk to her," her lawyers said.

The officer has served for nearly a decade, including two extended tours as a surface warfare officer, according to her complaint. She was diagnosed with gender dysphoria two months after the policy went into effect in April 2019 and told her commanding officer she is transgender shortly after, her lawyers said.

## War on terrorism

# Virus adds to uncertainty in Afghanistan

By Pamela Constable The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — With Afghanistan hovering between peace and war, and the government paralyzed by a tense political power struggle, it took a while for the coronavirus to become a reality for Afohans

Some said they thought the virus was a false rumor or a harmless flu; others believed it would affect only "godless" countries.

But over the past several days, with 22 cases of the coronavirus confirmed nationwide, the impact of the pandemic has begun to hit home. Now, the divided government and its desperately poor health system must grapple with a crisis that is bringing life to a halt in the West — and it must do so while contending with a militant group vying for power across half of the country.

The country's 22 cases have been linked to Afghans returning from next-door Iran, a country that has been hit hard by the virus, with nearly 1,000 deaths. In the past week, more than 50,000 Afghan refugees and workers have flooded back from Iran, mostly to escape the virus, with few border controls and no medical checks.

Pakistan, another neighboring country and a crucial source of imports, closed its border with Afghanistan this week, sending food prices skyrocketing and panicked



MED SARFARA

Health workers check temperatures of Afghan refugees as they enter Afghanistan at the Islam Qala border crossing with Iran in Herat Province on Wednesday.

shoppers emptying markets. Pakistan has also has a sharp spike in coronavirus cases, to nearly 200 over the past week, most linked to Shiite pilgrims returning from Iran.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has recently been preoccupied with other problems. Last month, he was declared the winner in September elections, but his rival, Abdullah Abdullah, insisted that he was the real winner and has vowed to form a "parallel" government. Meanwhile, Taliban leaders have suspended planned talks with Afghans about the country's future until Ghani agrees to free 5,000 imprisoned insurgents.

On Tuesday, though, the president made a live televised appeal to the nation for calm and patience.

"Honorable and dignified people of Af-

ghanistan," Ghani cried. "Please do not listen to rumors. With the grace of God ... our country is not facing any essential food shortages." He also announced a large distribution of government-held wheat reserves.

reserves.

Afghan authorities ordered schools shut down for a month and canceled sports events and celebrations for Nowruz, the Persian spring festival this weekend when Afghans flock to shrines and picnic spots.

The country's greatest problem now is its poor health-care system, which is far from adequate to serve the impoverished country of 25 million under normal circumstances. Experts and health officials said it is even less prepared to test, treat and care for coronavirus victims.

"The first problem is that our case detection rate is low, which may lead to a surge of posttive cases later," said Mohammad Nowruz Haqmal, a public health expert in Kabul. "Second, our clinical facilities are very few for the ones who are seriously affected and need hospital services."

There is only one laboratory in the entire country that can test for the coronavirus, and all samples must be sent there. About 260 suspected cases have been tested since the first positive case was reported three weeks ago.

There are no labs in Herat, a major city near the Iranian border, and few medical facilities that can provide quarantine for infected patients.

## US-led coalition to suspend training mission in Iraq

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq has paused training activities and begun pulling some international troops from the country because of concerns about the rapidly spreading coronavirus, military officials said Thursday.

A "reduced requirement for training" and a pause in Operation Inherent Resolve and NATO training missions in Iraq following the outbreak has led the United Kingdom to redeploy some of its personnel, that country's defense ministry said in a statement.

The Inherent Resolve training mission has been paused for 60 days, it said.

Despite the unspecified number of troop reductions, "the UK will retain key military personnel throughout the country to ensure the Iraqi Government, Global Coalition and UK national interests are appropriately supported," it

Iraq has had about 150 coronavirus cases and 12 deaths so far, but neighboring Iran has been hard hit by the virus, behind only China and Italy, with more than 17,300 reported cases and some 1,130 deaths, he latest World Health Organization data

The Iraqi government has suspended flights to airports in the country through Tuesday and instituted curfews to keep residents of Baghdad, Irbil and elsewhere in their homes to try to stall the spread of the virus. Exceptions are made only for emergencies or exempted work such as security and health care, a U.N. humant tarian agency in the country has Religious gatherings have also been banned.

Military personnel would be sent out of Baghdad to Kuwait or home, a coalition security official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the plans.

The U.K. is also adding 10,000 troops to those already on a higher state of readiness and putting its reserves on standby to help provide public services, such as driving oxygen tankers, as part of a response to the pandemic at home, a separate statement said.

The drawdown in Iraq comes in the wake of an attack that killed two Americans and a British soldier at a base north of Baghdad last week, and as coalition troops began a long-planned consolidation of the international alliance's troop presence in the country.

The U.S.-led coalition has been

assisting Iraq in the fight against ISIS and training security forces since the militants seized large swaths of Syria and Iraq as they swept through the two countries in 2014. Although the last ISIS—held territory near the Iraq-Syria border was liberated a year ago, the terrorist group continues to wage an insurgency in both countries.

Last week, two Marine Raiders were killed in a joint raid with Iraqi commandos on an ISIS stronghold and training camp in the rugged mountains of north-

But the coalition's successes against militants have allowed it to begin pulling out of several bases across the country.

Earlier this week, Inherent Resolve officials handed over a base and equipment in al-Qaim, near the country's western border with Syria.

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## **Afghanistan:** Measures mean some deployments to be extended

FROM FRONT PAGE

As of Thursday, 21 Resolute Support personnel exhibiting flulike symptoms were receiving medical care in isolation, NATO said.

So far, no coalition member has tested positive for the virus, a Resolute Support spokesman said.

The military in Afghanistan does not have a lab and sends test samples to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, as well as civilian facilities.

Last week, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., said troops from their state deployed to Afghanistan were experiencing symptoms of the disease but were denied testing.

The lawmakers' statements

came amid rising concerns of a coronavirus outbreak in Afghanistan, which borders Iran, one of countries most affected by the virus.

The situation in Iran has triggered thousands of Afghan refugees to return to their home country every day and health officials say some are bringing the virus back with them. Afghanistan has 22 confirmed cases of coronavirus, Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman for the nation's health ministry, said Thursday.

On Wednesday, a Resolute Support spokesman said on Twitter that the U.S. is committed to drawing down its force of about 13,000 to 8,600, as it had agreed to do in a peace deal with the Taliban at the end of February. The deal set a mid-July timeline for the withdrawal.

Since the deal was signed, the spread of the coronavirus has led the Defense Department to issue a stop-movement order, while quarantining troops returning home.

Some 300 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division rotating home from Afghanistan were placed in quarantine over the weekend.

The remaining soldiers were still expected to return to the U.S. from the Middle East, the division's spokesman, Lt. Col. Michael Burns, said Tuesday.

Stars and Stripes reporters Chad Garland and Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. wellman.phillip@stripes.com Twitter: @pwwellman



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## **DODEA** issues Japan school closures following complaints

By Caitlin Doornbos Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE Japan - After parents complained of a decision to continue classes despite the coronavirus pandemic, Defense Department schools in Japan announced Thursday they will temporarily close next week.

Friday will be the last day of classes for students at schools on military installations across Japan and Okinawa, Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific East Superintendent Judy Allen said in a letter to parents Thursday, Instruction is slated to restart on April 13.

The news comes a day after Stars and Stripes published a story about parents' frustrations over Allen's comments during the virtual town hall that DODEA did not plan to imminently close its schools in Japan despite similar closures in the region due to concerns over coronavirus. Public schools in Japan closed March 2.

During the town hall, Allen told parents she did not know if a positive case of coronavirus at a school would cause a decision to close DODEA schools in Japan.

"We are looking at the situa-tion that we have. I don't know what the situation will be when it occurs." Allen said during the Tuesday town hall. "We will follow our medical guidance and act

DODEA on Wednesday shut down its U.S. schools, including those on Guam. DODEA schools in South Korea have been closed since Feb. 26.

Some parents, such as Navy spouse Amy Cheatham Hayes, were happy that DODEA ulti-mately decided to close its Japan schools

"I'm really glad they've decided to make the responsible choice," she said. "A good poker player knows how to fold no matter how many chips they've contributed to the pot."

However, some fifth-grade and Sure Start students at Yokosuka's Sullivans Elementary School were later told not to return Friday after officials learned that two students had been tested for the virus, according to a DODEA

announcement posted to the school's official Facebook page. Parents of children in the two

grades were directed to keep them home until the results of those tests are available, said the announcement posted late Thursday.

Cheatham Hayes, whose husband is deployed aboard the USS Blue Ridge, has three children who attend Ikego Elementary School at the Ikego Housing Area and one who attends Yokosuka Middle School.

"We don't need to wait for COVID-19 to show up in our schools," she added. "It would be too late at that point."

The decision to close the schools aligns with a policy of social distancing - individuals staying at least six feet apart - to stem the virus' spread. As of Thursday, no service members, DOD civilians or their families in Japan have tested positive for coronavirus.

The schools will undergo a thorough cleaning during the temporary closure, "which would not be possible while students are in the building," Allen said in the



A crossing guard stops traffic near Joan K. Mendel Elementary School at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Feb. 28. DODEA has announced the closure of schools across U.S. bases in Japan.

Students will instead have online learning options available April 2, Allen said in the letter.
"Teachers will provide work for

students using various learning platforms," Allen wrote. "To be clear, this temporary school closure is not an additional vacation. School instruction will continue."

Parents who need additional technical support should contact their school for help, Allen added. During a virtual town hall on Tuesday, she said schools can loan computers to students who need ways to access online learning opportunities at home.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos While Allen said in the letter

that DODEA had been able to keep schools open in Japan because no military personnel, civilians or families stationed in Japan have tested positive for the virus. Navy spouse Lisa Tamargo Untegrove said the closure will provide relief for concerned parents.

"Making the decision to close schools helps alleviate stress for the parents trying to decide when to take a child out of school for a simple cough when they need that face-to-face time to understand topics in school," she said in a message to Stars and Stripes on Thursday.

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## USAF top general starts telework to 'set the example'

By Corey Dickstein Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Gen. David Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, worked from home Tuesday to "set the example" for his troops as they face down the coronavirus pandemic that has stricken hundreds of thousands across the globe, including seven activeduty airmen.
"I actually did telework for the

first time yesterday, and spent all day, as you might imagine, working this particular issue." the general told reporters Wednesday of the coronavirus outbreak. "We are sending a message to every echelon of the Air Force, that if the chief of staff of the Air Force can [telework], you can to."

The actions of the Air Force leadership in response to the virus follow the guidance of federal and state health and political officials who have urged people to avoid unnecessary travel and practice social distancing.

Goldfein said he, Gen. Stephen Wilson, the No. 2 Air Force offi-

cer, and Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett will rotate workdays outside of the Pentagon for the foreseeable future. He also said he plans to telework Mondays, Wednesdays and



Goldfein said he and the other

top leaders have the ability to conduct all their duties away from the Pentagon, including accessing classified materials.

But not everyone in the Air Force can work from home, and the service is pushing forward with its missions, including transporting troops and supplies across the globe to support ongoing combat operations and missions, Goldfein said. That means aircrews and troops charged with maintaining and fixing those aircraft, among other service members cannot telework

The Air Force is taking steps to keep aircrew safe when flying missions, which take them into areas such as South Korea and Italy, among the nations hardest hit by the coronavirus. The service has implemented screening procedures for those airmen including taking temperatures before they enter an aircraft and social distancing when possible aboard those planes.

"We've got to keep this global mobility mission flying," Gold-fein said. "We're really minimizing movement and keeping them in a bubble, if you will, to make sure we can keep the force size we need to be able to maintain the

We're really minimizing movement and keeping them in a bubble, if you will, to make sure we can keep the force size we need to be able to maintain the missions. 7

> Gen. David Goldfein Air Force chief of staff

The general said he could not immediately say Wednesday where the seven airmen who have confirmed cases of the coronavirus are located or what their jobs are. But they have taken necessary precautions to limit the spread of the infection, such as self-quarantining, he said. No members of the Air National Guard or the Air Force Reserve have been reported to have contracted the virus, Goldfein said.

Across the military, 49 service members had confirmed cases of the virus as of early Wednesday according to the Pentagon. That marked 13 new confirmed cases among troops since Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Dorothy Hogg, the Air Force surgeon general, said she expected cases to continue to increase across the service, just as they have in the general population. But she said it is impossible to know how many service members will contract the disease.

"There's a lot we still don't know about the virus," Hogg said.

Local commanders have largely been granted leeway to make decisions about operations at their installations, including how much time pilots will spend in the cocknit for training flights throughout the virus breakout, Goldfein said.

The Air Force has made decisions to cancel or postpone some training, he said. For example, the service has canceled its major Red Flag-Alaska air wars event that was to be held for 10 days in May. The service has also postponed indefinitely Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team events

The Air Force also elected last week to send home the vast majority of the cadets studying at its Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Service leaders said basic military training will continue for now, as will most student-pilot training. Those missions were deemed essential.

Goldfein said recruiting stations across the country also remain open. But the service might move toward a larger focus on virtual recruiting methods, if the virus outbreak continues long term, he said.

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# **Navy halts physical fitness** tests due to virus concerns

By Caitlin M. Kenney Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON who were getting ready to take their physical readiness test in the spring will now have more time to practice their pushups after the Navy canceled the as-sessments due to the coronavirus outbreak, the service announced Wednesday.

The assessments require sailors to be in close contact to conduct the exercise tests and physical measurements. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends people maintain a social distance of about six feet to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Every sailor and reservist is required to have the physical fitness assessment twice a year - in the spring between January and June and in the fall between July and December. The assessment includes the physical readiness test and the body composition assessment.

During the physical readiness test, sailors do pushups, situps and a cardio event, such as a run. The situp event requires a sailor have their feet held down by another sailor to secure them. During the body composition assessment, sailors have their weight recorded and, if necessary, they are physically measured to check body fat estimates to ensure they meet the Navy's height and weight



A sailor participates in a physical readiness test event. The Navy canceled the assessments due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Commands who have started or already completed their testing are asked to stop and not to add the test information in the Physical Readiness Information Management System, according to the Navy announcement.

The Navy is also directing all

organized and group physical training programs until further notice. There are exceptions to this policy, such as if a person is in recruit training or the unit's mission training requires it, according to the announcement

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## Air Force also suspends tests

By Jennifer H. Svan Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, many - The Air Force has suspended all fitness testing until June because of the coronavirus emergency, it said Thursday.

Mandatory assessments that

were scheduled from now through May will be pushed back by six months, the service said.

The suspension comes as airmen in many locations have fewer options for staying in shape. Fitness centers on and off base have been shuttered and group fitness classes canceled to try to limit social contact and stall the spread

At Ramstein Air Base in Germany, fitness leaders are looking for ways to help airmen stay active while the gyms remain closed. The 786th Force Support Squadron is producing a fitness video, base officials said, and plans to post on its Facebook page how airmen can use the Air Force's "Wellbeats" app, which the service has provided free access to until the end of April.

The Navy on Wednesday also canceled physical assessments for sailors, due to be held this spring, citing the coronavirus

There have been seven confirmed cases of the virus among active-duty Air Force personnel, Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein said Wednesday. Overall, 49

U.S. service members around the world have tested positive for the virus, the Pentagon said.

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# Military ramps up testing in South Korea

By Kim Games. Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea - South Korea has been praised as a model for tackling the novel coronavirus with aggressive testing and tracking cases. That was fortunate for thousands of U.S. forces stationed on the peninsula.

The military watched warily as the virus spread in China, where

**ANALYSIS** 

it first appeared in late December, then jumped to other countries to become a global pandemic.

With the number of infections soaring in South Korea after a February outbreak in Daegu, U.S. Forces Korea restricted access to bases, implemented health checks at entry gates and ordered service members to avoid nonessential activities and travel outside the base. However, USFK didn't have the

ability to conduct its own tests. It initially had to outsource patients and samples to an overwhelmed South Korean health system.

That changed on March 7 when the military stood up its own lab at the new hospital that opened last year on Camp Humphreys, allowing it to ramp up testing.

#### Initial delay

"There was an initial delay in getting that capability," said Col. William O'Connell, the officer in charge of the lab at the Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital. "We did not have molecular capability prior to this happening

so this was stood up very quick." Only nine people affiliated with USFK have tested positive, including a soldier and his wife, three other military dependents and four South Korean employees.

They were all tested via the South Korean system either in person or with nasal or throat swabs taken at on-post medical facilities.

In all, more than 250 service members and civilians have been tested, including 125 at the new lab at BDAACH, which were all negative as of Thursday, officials

The lab is conducting about 10 tests per day but has the capacity to do six to eight times that, according to O'Connell. It takes less than a day to get results.

The military benefited from a long-standing relationship with South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and lessons learned from the deadly 2015 MERS outbreak in the

"I think what the Koreans have done very nicely is learned from the 2015 MERS outbreak," USFK command surgeon Col. Clinton Murray said Tuesday in an interview at the military headquarters on Camp Humphreys.

"That included a robust test-ing platform. It included a robust health care system that has lots of negative pressure rooms, a very interconnected health care system," he said, "Their KCDC also



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

American flags wave alongside coronavirus banners outside Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Monday.

established an emergency operations center so that when this happened they could just turn all of this on.'

The South Korean tests are not FDA-approved, but "the plat-forms are very, very similar" and could even be run on the same machine, Murray said.

Murray, who was involved in the Army's response to the Ebola outbreak several years ago, said he exchanges text messages with his KCDC liaison 20 times a day and receives official updates on

#### Model approach

The daily count of confirmed cases in South Korea swung back up to 162 for a total of 8,565 on Thursday, reversing a four-day slowdown as authorities shifted focus from a religious sect in Daegu to potential cluster infections.

COVID-19 has killed 91 people in South Korea, most elderly or suffering other diseases that made them vulnerable.

Despite the high numbers, the South has been applauded for its systematic and creative approach to the crisis with sophisticated tracking, drive-thru testing clinics and a largely compliant population willing to stay inside.

More than 90% of the 307,024 tests came back negative, but authorities in the nation of 50 million people say the effort has allowed them to detect hot spots, isolate notential carriers and focus resources more efficiently.

Murray also credited the low USFK numbers to the extensive force protection measures implemented by Gen. Robert Abrams, who commands some 28,000 troops on the divided peninsula.

"That system of health really protected people from getting exposed and then it protected them from actually potentially getting infected," he said.

The flu season also waned

earlier for USFK and the rest of South Korea than in the United States, he said.

"We actually did not have this overlapping flu-cold-COVID season," he said. "So we actually sort of got lucky. Otherwise I think our numbers would've been substantially higher.'

#### Selective testing

The military is only testing

people who show symptoms common to COVID-19 such as a fever, cough or shortness of breath as well as other known risk factors such as potential exposure to the pneumonia-like disease.

Service members or relatives who test positive are placed in one of six negative pressure isolation units established on Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base, while South Koreans are treated

Kimberly Hillenbrand, 37, said she and her soldier-husband fell ill early in the outbreak and were directed by the unit doctor to get tested for coronavirus at a local hospital in Pyeongtaek.

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We showed up at the hospital and they said you don't need to be tested," she recalled. The couple gave up after being turned away a second time.

"So we never did get tested and after three weeks we finally started feeling better," she said. "I feel like an abundance of caution is really being used in a lot of the situations here on installation, and I feel like we're in good

South Korea's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said 38 service members have been infected, but 14 of them have fully recovered and no new cases have been reported in more than a week.

"The South Korean military is heightening its vigilance on COVID-19 now. USFK might need to direct all its might to preventing the disease in the forces too," said Kim Woo Joo, a professor at the infectious diseases department at Korea University.

"Soldiers live together in the barracks and the coronavirus is highly contagious and not easy to diagnose. In spite of that, USFK has been doing well in coping with the situation on its own," he added

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## **Buildup:** Hospital ships prep, gather staff before deploying

FROM FRONT PAGE

And there are logistical and legal concerns about expanding the military's role in civilian affairs, such as tasking it with enforcing quarantines. Defense officials also want to be careful not to do anything to weaken their ability to defend the nation.

A look at the military's role in the crisis:

What the military is doing.

The hospital ships are not on their way but are gathering staff and preparing to

The USNS Mercy hospital ship, which is based on the West Coast, will be ready to move out "in days," according to officials, and the USNS Comfort is undergoing maintenance in Norfolk, Va., and will head to New York City within two weeks.

Navy officials are trying to expedite the Comfort's departure. It was not yet clear where the Mercy will go, but it will be somewhere on the West Coast.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, the surgeon for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the plan is to staff the ships with the typical mix of medical expertise, which primarily involves trauma treatment. The ships will take non-COVID-19 patients, easing the trauma treatment load on civilian hospitals. He said staffing decisions will be based

on what local leaders need and will mainly involve active-duty military personnel. The Army, meanwhile, is preparing to

deploy two field hospitals, according to Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy. One defense official said the two field hospitals will go to New York City and Seattle, two cities with the greatest need.

The official spoke on condition of ano-

nymity to discuss details not yet made public.

Friedrichs said Army field hospitals will be able to provide about 1,000 beds. He said they have not put reserve medical units on alert because of concerns about taking those people out of the civilian jobs in the health care industry.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Wednesday that I million respiratory masks were immediately made available to the Department of Health and Human Services, and 4 million more will follow. The Pentagon also will provide to civilian agencies as many as 2,000 special-purpose military ventiators, he said.

Also, Army scientists are researching and testing vaccines for the coronavirus, in coordination with civilian agencies. On Tuesday, Esper visited Fort Detrick in Maryland, where the research is underway.



NANDO VERGARA/AP

A doctor from the USNS Comfort hospital ship walks past patients, Nov. 27, 2018, in Riohacha, Colombia. On Wednesday, President Donald Trump announced he will dispatch the Comfort to the New York City Harbor to provide New York City hospitals with relieve in taking on the COVID-19 virus.

In addition, the Pentagon continues to provide housing at four military bases for some passengers taken from the Grand Princess cruise ship, which was hit with a cluster of coronavirus cases. It also has made available housing at other bases for people entering the U.S. at certain civilian airports and needing monitoring.

The most extensive role for the military so far is for the National Guard, which is being called up by governors to provide a range of support. At least 2,000 National Guard members in 23 states are working on virus support and response. Some are helping at state emergency operations centers; others are providing transportation for civilian health care providers; and some are collecting and delivering test

What the military is considering.

There are many more ways the military could assist in the COVID-19 crisis, and Pentagon leaders said those discussions are going on continually with federal and state officials.

Friedrichs told reporters Monday that

defense officials are trying to identify "what's within the realm of the possible," while also spelling out what the trade-offs for that would be.

For example, Friedrichs said, officials are wary to mobilize large numbers of National Guard members because it would take them away from their civilian jobs, which in some cases are in health services already engaged in fighting CVID-19. Esper has said he is considering activat-

les of the same and reserve units for federal duty to help states with planning, logistics and medical support "as needed." Such a move would need approval by President Donald Trump.

■ What the military could do in an extreme emergency.

The Defense Department has a de-

The Defense Department has a detailed pandemic response plan that lays out the myriad things the military can do if requested, including a last-resort role in helping to impose quarantines and border restrictions.

The military could be called on to help establish "mass casualty" treatment sites, eprovide shelter for displaced persons and help provide postal, power, water and sewer services, food deliveries and mortuary tasks. Troops also could provide logistics, communications and other support for law enforcement and the National Guard. Drafted and overhauled several times in recent years, the military's plan is closely guarded and officials declined to discuss details publicly.

Officials, however, say that there is a broad assumption that local law enforcement, border control officers and the National Guard under the governors' command would be the first line of defense to stem the spread of any virus through travel restrictions at the borders and along state lines or outbreak areas.

■ Impact on the military.

So far, 49 members of the military have tested positive for the virus, along with 14 Defense Department civilians, 19 military dependents and seven contractors.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus.



STEVE HELBER/AP

## Navy relaxes grooming rules to help impede virus spread

By Theron Godbold Stars and Stripes

The Navy is allowing commanding officers to temporarily relax some hair-frooming standards to help curb the spread of the coronavirus, according to a message issued Thursday by the chief of naval operations.

The idea is to promote social distancing — something that's difficult to do when sitting in a barber's chair.

Commanders may tolerate longer, bulkier hair on the top, back and sides, but "at no time will relaxed grooming interfere with the proper wearing of Navy head gear and proper use of protective personal equipment (helmets, masks, hoods, etc.)," the message states.

However, regulations on hairstyles, facial hair and sideburns still hold sway. That means only neat and closely trimmed mustaches and no beards.

"Good judgment of leaders at all levels of the chain of command is required to ensure all possible [coronavirus] force health protection precautions are being taken," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday said in the message.

The order has no expiration date but holds until it's superseded by new guidance.

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# **US may face long struggle with COVID-19**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - In a matter of days, millions of Americans have seen their lives upended by measures to curb the spread of the new coronavirus.

Normally bustling streets are deserted as families hunker down in their homes. Many of those who do venture out try to stay a safe distance from anyone they encounter, even as they line up to buy now-precious commodities like hand sanitizer. Parents juggle child care as schools close, perhaps for the rest of the school vear And restaurants and hars sit empty as more and more convert to delivery-only options.

How long will this last? Scientists have said that there isn't a simple answer.

'In many ways, this situation is unprecedented — we're trying to take some actions to curb the spread and timing of this pandemic," said Stephen Morse, a disease researcher at Columbia University in New York.

Yes, there have been past disoutbreaks that scientists can draw some lessons from but, in those cases, the disease was largely allowed to run its course. "So those models don't precise-

ly apply," Morse said.

On Monday, President Donald Trump said that the U.S. may be managing the outbreak through July or August. And New York Andrew Cuomo said the state's number of coronavirus cases may peak - not end - in 45 days The overall message is that the

country will be fighting the virus outbreak for a matter of months, at least, not days or weeks. Each model of how the disease

could spread relies on data and assumptions about population dynamics, demographics, health care capacity and other factors, said Rebecca Katz, a public health expert at Georgetown University.

The challenge for designing models of what will happen next in the U.S. is that limited testing for COVID-19 means researchers don't know what the starting - how many people are already infected.

In simplest terms, scientists said that the epidemic will slow



A couple walks along Fremont Street in Las Vegas, devoid of the usual crowds after casinos were ordered to shut down due to the coronavirus.

when people with infections don't pass the virus on to others.

"Basically, if I infect one other person or more ... then the epi-demic can take off. If I infect less than one person and everybody infects less than one person, then the epidemic will decline," said Elizabeth Halloran, a disease researcher at the University of Washington.

Based on data from China and from cruise ships, scientists estimated that unless measures are taken to limit the spread, each infected person will infect about 2 or 3 others, leading to an exponential growth of the virus.

If the virus makes a jump to new person every two to five days, as scientists calculate, then a single infected person could lead to 4,142 total infections nothing is done to break chains of transmission. Unless such measures are put

in place, scientists estimate that between 40% and 80% of the global population could become infected. Based on an analysis of data from China, scientists found that the majority of new infections are transmitted by people with mild symptoms who may not even know that they're ill, said Jeffrey Shaman, a public health expert at Columbia University.

Even if most people recover and only a fraction of total infections are severe enough to require hospitalization - about 14%, scientists estimate - the sheer scale of the epidemic will put enormous strain on hospitals, health care workers and other patients who may see unrelated procedures

Scientists now agree that measures to break or slow the chains of transmission are crucial to ensure that emergency rooms aren't quickly overwhelmed by surges in critically ill patients.

If measures like closing schools are successful in slowing disease spread, "we are going to see a hump instead of a peak" in new cases, U.S. government disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci said in a White House briefing.

In other words, the number of infections will rise more gradually and manageably. But that also means the duration of the outbreak will be prolonged.

"The point of the restrictions we have is actually to stretch this out even longer. We don't want a big peak to come very quickly," said Mark Jit a disease researcher at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, "It's not like a Hollywood movie with a clear ending where everyone is saved, or everyone dies, quickly.

Most scientists believe the fight against COVID-19 won't be over until there's an effective vaccine. But Fauci and other experts said that it will be more than a year before a vaccine can be ready for widespread use. "The best-case scenario is that

we have a vaccine in 12 or 18 months and then our lives go back to normal," Jit said. "The worstcase scenario it takes a long time for a vaccine to be developed, and the world is really changed and our lives aren't the same again."

While we wait, are we all shut-

ins for more than a year? Almost no one thinks that's realistic.

"I don't think we can maintain social distancing as it is right now for the duration of the epidemic, said Michael Levy, a University of Pennsylvania disease researcher.

What may be more feasible is a plan for intermittent restrictions and enhanced monitoring to control the disease, an idea explored in a new study from researchers at Imperial College London. Once the number of new cases falls below a certain threshold, schools, offices and restaurants could reopen. But if the number of infections spikes again, restrictions would be reinstated



SEAN MCKEAG. THE CITIZENS' VOICE/AP

Customers are assisted in the gun section of Nimrod Haven Hunting & Fishing in Hanover Township near Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on



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# **Trump weighs controls on bailed-out firms**

By JILL COLVIN AND DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday the government should take an equity stake in some companies that need bailouts because of devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the U.S. economy.

Trump told a briefing he has executive authority to curb the impact on businesses. "There's a lot of executive power," he said. "If we don't have to use it, that would be a good thing, not a bad thing."

Such a move could be an exracidiary reach by government into the private sector. He said he'd specifically target companies that did stock buybacks, rather than investing in infrastructure. Trump also said he'd back restrictions on executive bonuses and future buybacks from companies receiving federal support.

Trump reported Thursday on therapeutic drugs that might hold potential down the road to treat those suffering with COVID-19 and stepped up criticism of China for not telling the world earlier about what has become a pandemic.

"More help is on the way,"
Trump said at a White House
briefing on the spread of the
virus.

Trump and FDA commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn described sereral approaches under testing, such as chloroquine, a drug long such to star malaria; remdesivir, an experimental antiviral that's being tried in at least five separate experiments, and possibly antibodies culled from the blood of COVID-19 patients after they recover. But no new and imminent treatment was announced.

Chloroquine is widely available now and could be used off-label, but Hahn said officials want a formal study to get good information on safety and effectiveness.

"We're looking at drugs that are already approved for other indications" as a potential bridge or stopgap until studies are completed on other drugs under investigation, Hahn said. But there remains no proven treatment for the disease, from which most people recover.

Trump, who planned to visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Thursday, has invoked rarely used emergency powers to marshal critical medical supplies against the coronavirus pandemic. Trump also signed an aid package — which the Senate approved earlier Wednesday — that will guarantee sick leave to workers who fall ill.

Trump jabbed at China, where the virus was first reported, contending: "Could have been stopped. Could have been stopped. Could have been stopped pretty easily: He said Chinese officials 'didn't decide to make it public' in time to stop the virus from going global.

Trump says he is expanding the nation's diagnostic testing capac-



VAN VUCCI/AP

Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn, right, and Vice President Mike Pence listen as President Donald Trump speaks at Thursday's press briefing with the coronavirus task force.

ity and deploying a Navy hospital ship to New York City, which is rapidly becoming an epicenter of the pandemic, and another such ship to the West Coast. And the Housing and Urban Development Department is suspending foreclosures and evictions through April to help the growing number of Americans who face losing jobs and missing rent and mortgage payments.

On Wednesday the Senate overwhelmingly passed a second coronavirus response bill, which Trump signed Wednesday night. The vote was a lopsided 90-8 despite worries by many Republicans about a temporary new employer mandate to provide sick leave to workers who get COVID-19. The measure is also aimed at making tests for the virus free.

Meanwhile the administration pushed forward its broad economic rescue plan, which proposes \$500 billion in checks to millions of Americans, with the first checks to come April 6 if Congress approves.

The White House urged hospitals to cancel all elective surgeries to reduce the risk of being overwhelmed by cases. The president was pressed on why a number of celebrities, like professional basketball players, seemed to have easier access to diagnostic tests than ordinary citizens.

The government has told Americans to avoid groups of more than 10 people and the elderly to stay home while a pointed reminder was given to millennials to follow the guidelines and avoid social gatherings. But officials urged younger people to donate blood, saying it is safe to do so.

The Defense Production Act gives the president broad authority to shape the domestic industrial base so that it is capable of providing essential materials and goods needed in a national security crisis. The law allows the president to require businesses and corporations to give priority to and accept contracts for required materials and services.

The executive order issued by Trump gives Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar the authority to determine "the proper nationwide priorities and allocation of all health and medical resources, including controlling the distribution of such materials ... in the civilian market, for responding to the spread of COVID-19 within the United States." It also applies to certain health services.

Azar released a statement Wednesday night, saying, "we are coordinating closely with private suppliers, healthcare purchasers, and our federal partners like the Commerce Department to ensure that resources are going where they're needed."

Trump also said he would soon invoke a rarely used federal statute that would enable the U.S. to tighten controls along the southwest border because of the new coronavirus, based on a recommendation of the U.S. surgeon general.

The president said the law, intended to halt the spread of comnunicable diseases, would give authorities "great latitude" to help control the outbreak. Earlier, U.S. officials told The Associated Press that the administration would invoke the law to immediately turn back all people who cross the border illegally from Mexico and to refuse people the right to claim asylum there.

More than eight weeks after the first U.S. case of the virus was detected, the federal government is still struggling to conduct videscale testing for the virus. Compounding the problem, laboratories are reporting shortages of supplies needed to run the tests, which officials urged to be given to those most likely to have COVID-19.

Deborah Birx, who is coordinating the White House response, cautioned that there has been a backlog of swabs waiting in labs to be tested, and as that backlog clears "we will see the number of people diagnosed dramatically increased" in the next few days.

Asked about the administration's mixed messages when it comes to the threat posed by the virus, Birx said new studies about how long the virus can be transmissible on hard surfaces helped prompt the administrations or social distancing. "None of us really understood" that, she said. "We're still working out how much is by human transmission and how much is it by surface." She added, "Don't expose yourself to surfaces outside the home."

## Virus layoffs spark massive surge in state jobless claims

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — In Ohio, more than 48,000 people applied for jobless benefits during the first two days of this week. The tally during the same period the prior week: 1,825.

In neighboring Pennsylvania, about 70,000 people sought unemployment aid in a single day—six times the total for the entire previous week.

Jobless claims are surging across the U.S. after government officials ordered millions of workers, students and shoppers to stay at home as a precaution against spreading the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease.

The growing number of people filing for unemployment checks raises fresh questions about whether states have stockpiled enough money since the last recession to tide over idled workers until the crisis ends. Some fear the demand for help could outpace the states' ability to pay claims.

"Our unemployment insurance fund is getting hit pretty hard right now," said Gov. Gina Raimondo, of Rhode Island, where coronavirusrelated jobless claims accelerated from zero to nearly 18,000 in barely one week.

Raimondo, a Democrat, said the state needs to start replenishing its fund and appealed for help from the federal government.

President Donald Trump's administration is proposing an economic stimulus package that could approach \$1\text{ trillion} and include sending checks to Americans within a matter of weeks help them pay for groceries, bills, mortgages and rent. The Senate gave final approval Wednesday to a separate bill that would inject \$1\text{ billion} into

state unemployment insurance programs. The federal aid could rival or exceed that of the Great Recession in 2008, when a financial industry crisis led to widespread layoffs. Economic analysts warn the country is likely entering — or already in — its first recession since then.

The last recession led to the insolvency of unemployment trust funds in 35 states that collectively racked up more than \$40 billion of debt to keep paying unemployed workers. In many states, those debts were repaid through higher taxes on employers.

To shore up their trust funds, some states also cut the amount and duration of benefits for those who became unemployed in the future.

"States aren't really recession-ready, because it's so hard for people to get benefits, stay in the program, and the benefits are insufficient," said Michele Evermore, a senior policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project, a New York-based group that advocates for low-wage workers and the unemployed.

# Italian death toll overtakes China's total

Associated Press

ROME — The death toll in Italy from the coronavirus overtook China's on Thursday in a stark illustration of how the outbreak has pivoted toward Europe and the United States.

Italy, with a population of 60 million, recorded at least 3,405 deaths, or roughly 150 more than in China—a country with a population over 20 times larger.

Italy reached the bleak milestone the same day that Wuhan, the Chinese city where the coronavirus first emerged three months ago, recorded no new infections, a sign that the communist country's draconian lockdowns were a powerful method to stop the virus' spread.

Meanwhile, the virus appeared to be opening an alarming new front in Africa, where in less than three weeks it has spread to 35 countries.

The epidemic has also now reached at least one European head of state, 62-year-old Prince Albert II of the tiny principality of Monaco. The palace announced that he tested positive for the virus but was continuing to work from his office and was being treated by doctors from Princess Grace Hospital, named after his American actress mother.

The worldwide death toll crept toward 10,000 as the total number of infections topped 220,000, including nearly 85,000 people who have recovered.

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe pleaded with people to keep their distance from one another to avoid spreading the virus, even as the crisis pushed them to seek comfort.

"When you love someone, you should avoid taking them in your arms," he said in Parliament. "It's counterintuitive, and it's painful. The psychological consequences, the way we are living, are very disturbing — but it's what we must do."

The American death toll rose to 160, primarily elderly people.

Health authorities have cited a variety of reasons for Italy's high toll, key among them its large population of elderly people, who are particularly susceptible to serious complications from the virus, though severe cases have also been seen in younger patients. Italy has the world's second-oldest population, and the vast majority of its dead — 87%—were over 70.

Jonas Schmidt-Chanasit, a virologist at Germany's Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, said Italy's high death rate could be explained in part by the almost total breakdown of the health system in some areas.

"That's what happens when the health system collapses," he said.

On a visit to the northern city of Milan, the head of a Chinese Red Cross delegation helping advise Italy said he was shocked to see so many people walking around, using public transportation and eating out.

Sun Shuopeng said Wuhan saw infections peak only after a month



Municipal workers spray disinfectant as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 outside Government Medical College hospital in Jammu, India, on Thursday.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

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People wait for a tube train in London on Thursday.

of a strictly enforced lockdown.

"Right now we need to stop all economic activity and we need to stop the mobility of people," he said. "All people should be staying at home in quaratine."

Aside from the elderly and the sick, most people have mild or moderate symptoms, like a fever or cough, and most recover in a matter of weeks.

Spain has been the hardest-hit European country after Italy, and in Madrid a four-star hotel began operating as a makeshift hospital for coronavirus patients.

The director of the group that runs the Ayre GH Colon hote tweeted: "365 rooms more to help win the war." The Madrid Hotel Business Association said it has placed 40 hotels with room for 9,000 people at the service of the Madrid region, which has near

half of Spain's 17,000 or so cases. In London, home to almost 9 million, the government urged people to stay off public trans-

portation as authorities considered imposing tougher travel restrictions.

The British supermarket chain Sainsbury's reserved the first

The British supermarket chain Sainsbury's reserved the first hour of shopping for vulnerable customers, one of many such efforts around the world.

Jim Gibson, 72, of London, said he found most of his groceries there in a "relatively traumafree" experience. But he fretted that he hadn't been able to get the medicine he needed for his wife and himself, and expressed concerns that Britain's government had been too slow in ramping up testing.

"You can't go on ignoring World Health Organization guidelines — if they're wrong, who the hell is right?" he said. "Let's have no shilly-shallying."

The British government, which was slow to react to the virus, has shifted gears and is now drawing up legislation giving itself new powers to detain people and restrict gatherings. The bill is expected to be approved by Parliament next week.

Thursday marked the first time since Jan. 20 that Wuhan showed no new locally transmitted cases, a rare glimmer of hope and perhaps a lesson in the strict measures needed to contain the virus.

Wuhan, which has been under a strict lockdown since January, once was the place where thousands lay sick or dying in hurriedly constructed hospitals. But Chinese authorities said all 34 new cases recorded over the previous day had come from abroad.

"Today, we have seen the dawn after so many days of hard effort," said Jiao Yahui, a senior inspector at the National Health Commission.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization warned that the virus is spreading quickly in Africa — an especially alarming development, given the poor state of health care in many of its countries.

"About 10 days ago we had about five countries" with the virus, said WHO's Africa chief, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti. Now 35 Africa's S4 countries have cases, with the total close to 650. It is extremely rapid evolution," she said. The first sub-Saharan Africa case was announced Feb. 28.

European stock markets were up only slightly after losses in Asia despite a massive 750 billion-euro stimulus package announced overnight by the European Central Bank.

Wall Street was calm in early trading by the standards of the past few days, when traders — weighing the increasing likelihood of a recession against the huge economic support pledged by global authorities — have caused wild swings.

With wide swaths of the U.S. economy grinding to a halt, the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits surged by 70,000 last week, more than economists expected.

The U.S. Federal Reserve unveiled measures to support money-market funds and borrowing as investors worldwide rush to build up dollars and cash.

More borders closed, leaving tens of thousands of tourists wondering how they would get home. In the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand shut out tourists.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei planned to pardon 10,000 more prisoners including an unknown number of political detainees to combat the virus. The country, where more than 1,100 people have already died, previously freed 85,000 prisoners on temporary leave.

In Austria, the province of Tyrol put 279 municipalities under quarantine because of a large number of infections, barring people from leaving towns or villages except to go to work.

# Coronavirus moves 'inside the wire' in Stuttgart

By John Vandiver Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Army civilian Jakawana Minton pulled into the drive-thru coronavirus screening center hoping that a four-day fever wasn't a sign she was among the infected in Stuttgart, now the overseas U.S. military community with the

most confirmed cases.
"I don't know if it's allergies or something else," said Minton, whose nose was swabbed at the Army's test center at U.S. European Command's Patch Barracks headquarters. "I'm not too concerned, but I thought I should come in:

The number of coronavirus cases has surged in Stuttgart. where 12 members of the military community were infected as Wednesday evening, garrison officials said. At least 100 other people are in isolation and trace teams are tracking down those who might have been in contact with suspected or confirmed cases at the garrison, which includes EUCOM, U.S. Africa Command, special operations units and others.

"The virus doesn't discriminate. It's hit military, civilian, contractors, spouses and, today, our first kid." Col. Jason Condrey. Stuttgart garrison commander, told the Stuttgart community in a Facebook message Wednesday evening.

"The reality is we've been behind and, in my opinion, are still behind," Condrey told the garri-son community of 28,000 people,



Jakawana Minton, a civilian at the U.S. Army garrison in Stuttgart, gets screened for the coronavirus at a drive-thru site next to the health clinic on Patch Barracks.

referring to vigilance in practicing social distancing. While the garrison has shut off many public gathering points, people need to urgently keep their distance from each other, he said.

The coronavirus, he said, is 'inside the wire."

Normal life in Stuttgart has ground to a halt, on post and off. City officials in the prosperous southern German city, home to industrial giants like Porsche and Bosch, have ordered just about everything other than grocery stories and pharmacies closed. The streets of the usually traffic-

clogged city are empty.

Patch Barracks, typically a bustling mess of activity and a parking battleground, looks like a

All the tables and chairs have been cleared out of the base food court, and at lunchtime Wednesday, just a few patrons were seen carrying takeout meals. The nearby coffee shop, which in normal times is packed with people getting their caffeine fix, was empty too.

The commissaries, where people stock up on supplies, and the health clinic, where people with symptoms have been showing up for tests, have become garrison nerve centers.

The Army opened a drive-thru screening site Sunday, next to the Patch Barracks health clinic. Between 50 and 90 people a day have been pulling through since then, said Lt. Col. Maria I. Bruton, commander of the Stuttgart health clinic.

among the soldiers helping out at the screening site Wednesday, asking drivers a few questions about their symptoms and people they've been in contact with before deciding whether a swab is needed.

The swabs are sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in the Kaiserslautern area, about two hours west of Stuttgart, for analysis. It is the only site the military has in Europe for test analysis

LRMC also has its own screening center, which is open 24 hours a day for members of the local military community.

The aim of screening is to figure out who isn't well and make sure they steer clear of places like the commissary, officials in Stuttgart said.

Screening starts when driving on post, where military police ask a battery of questions—"Are you sick? Have you been in contact with anyone with the virus?" before allowing people through. Those reporting symptoms are referred to the drive-thru screening site. Others are asked if they know where to go if their health takes a turn for the worse.

Minton was among those sent to the drive-thru Wednesday As the medic swabbed her nostril, Minton gave a quick shiver of discomfort, but then it was over.

"Everybody is doing the best they can, which I appreciate," she

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## Guard response could include tens of thousands of troops

By Corey Dickstein Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The National Guard's top officer said Thursday that he expects the number of troops called to duty to combat the coronavirus could climb to tens of thousands in a deepening crisis that has impacted all 50 ILS states

The more than 2.000 Air and Army National Guard members activated in 27 states as of Thursday will likely double by Saturday, Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, the National Guard chief, told reporters. Guard members thus far have worked on a variety of missions, he said, primarily aiding state officials in logistics, transportation and delivering and administering coronavirus test kits.

"Going forward, we expect the role of the National Guard will continue to grow and evolve to meet the country's needs during this historic pandemic," Lengvel said. "It's hard to tell what the exact requirement will be... This could quickly blossom in the next couple of weeks."

The number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus across the United States has risen sharply in recent weeks, and officials warned those numbers will con-



DAVID WALLACE, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

Arizona governor Doug Ducey, center, and Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, director of the state's Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, right, listen to Matt Heckard of DEMA at the agency's operations center in Phoenix on Wednesday.

tinue to rise. More than 10,700 coronavirus cases had been confirmed by Thursday afternoon, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is closely tracking the global pandemic.

Six members of the National Guard are among the people who

have contracted the virus, Lengyel said. Those individuals were all within the United States. Across the military, 51 service members had tested positive for the virus, as of Thursday morning, the Pentagon said

The National Guard has about

450,000 troops, of which about 21,000 are now deployed to locations overseas.

Lengyel said his organization is uniquely qualified to aid state officials in their responses to the coronavirus pandemic. While National Guard troops can be called to federal service by the president, most operate under the command and control of their state's governors. So far, the federal government has not activated Guard members under its command for the coronavirus response

Lengyel said he would like to see his forces remain under state control, as U.S. government officials in recent days have floated the idea of activating some Guard elements for federal duty.

"That would not make sense in this situation," the general said. 'They're much better used in a state status."

The Guard gives governors the ability to directly control where troops are moved within their states and control their mission sets. Guard members on state duty can also perform some law enforcement duties within their own states, which active-duty and federalized Guard troops, by law,

Lengyel applauded the efforts

of the National Guard in responding to the crisis, thus far. He compared the pandemic to responding to hurricanes in all 50 states and U.S. territories at once.

In different parts of the country, Guard forces have been charged with differing missions. the general said. He highlighted a few missions his troops have conducted so far:

Guard members in New York have been largely working in the New York City suburb New Rochelle, the site of that state's largest outbreak. They have been helping local officials clean public spaces and distribute food to people in need.

In Florida and Maryland, Guard troops have been aiding medical officials with coronavirus testing. National Guard members in Wisconsin have been transporting state health officials. And, Tennessee Air National Guard members delivered 500,000 swabs from Italy to Memphis for coronavirus testing, to be distributed by federal Health and Human Services officials across the nation

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# **US** struggles to fill requests for protective gear

By Andrew Selsky Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. - The U.S. government is rushing protective equipment to states, packing dozens of flights and hundreds of trucks with supplies for medical workers who will be on the front lines of the coronavirus fight.

But the pandemic has exposed some of the stockpile's shortcomings: The cache isn't designed to be a long-term solution to monumental demand, and some state officials are complaining that the deliveries are falling far short of what's needed or include expired items.

The Strategic National Stockpile was created in 1999 to respond to bombings and biological, chemical and nuclear attacks. It maintains caches of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and vaccines in secret locations around the nation.

It has never confronted any thing on the scale of the COVID-

The first real use came in the anthrax-by-mail attacks following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, but it was the 2009 H1N1 pandemic that prompted the largest use to date, said Christopher McKnight Nichols, associate professor of history at Oregon State University.

'The SNS as designed and funded cannot and will not be able to fully accommodate the needs of the entirety of the American people," Nichols said. The system "is designed to help buy time" and prioritize areas of greatest need, he explained.

When the virus first hit the U.S., federal officials did focus on a hot spot: the Seattle area.

The country's first coronavirus death occurred there on Feb. 29. That same day, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee requested almost one-quarter million N95 respirator masks, which fit tightly to the face, and 200,000 surgical masks, which are less protective than respirators but still deemed accept-



Laurie Kuypers, a registered nurse, reaches into a car to take a nasopharyngeal swab at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing station, Tuesday, for University of Washington Medicine patients in Seattle. The U.S. has struggled to provide protective gear to states.

able by federal health officials when N95 masks are unavailable. The governor also asked for 5,000 eye protectors, 60,000 disposable gowns and 70,000 pairs of gloves.

Six days later, the shipment came in. "They met our entire request,"

said Mike Faulk, a spokesman for the Democratic governor. A second order resulted in the delivery of more N95 respirators

and other equipment, Faulk said. But since then, Washington state has received only about 25% of requests, according to Jessica Baggett of the state's joint information center. Other states haven't gotten

what they wanted.

"If anyone in the Trump administration is listening, I want to say this very loudly and clearly: We need a better response from the federal government," Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo, a Democrat, told a news conference Monday. "We need faster access to our personal protective equipment, masks, goggles, gloves, etc. to protect our frontline healthcare workers. I am out of patience at this point."

The state requested hundreds of thousands of respirators, surgical masks, gloves and other protective equipment from the stockpile and received a quarter of that request, said Joseph Wendelken, spokesman for the Rhode Island Department of Health.

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, a Republican, said the state has requested equipment which he expects to arrive this week and has no complaints about the Trump administration's response to such requests.

## **National** Parks stav open with alterations

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY - Most national parks are open as a refuge for Americans tired of being stuck at home during a global pandemic, but despite now being free to visit, people may find it more difficult than normal to enjoy them as parks close visitor centers, shuttles, lodges and restaurants to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

Parks are trying to keep up with ever-changing rules and recommendations from government officials who are urging people to avoid gathering in large groups but allowing them to get outside for fresh air and exercise as long as they keep their distance from others. The National Park Service says it's adhering to the latest guidelines from the White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vowing to keep outdoor spaces open while giving park superintendents the power to close or modify operations.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Wednesday temporarily waived National Park Service



A snowshoer walks near the Paradise Inn, which is closed, at Mount Rainier National Park, on Wednesday, in Washington state.

entrance fees to make it easier for people to get outdoors and "implement some social distancing.

"Getting out into the wilder ness is perfect for what we call the 'shack nasties' — being cooped up inside your home," said Trish Jacob, an employee of a backcountry guiding company near Rocky Mountain National Park

But not everyone is on board with the idea of people descending on parks and their gateway towns to escape the virus.

Executives at a hospital in Moab, Utah, implored state officials to slow the flow of people coming to see the red rocks and unique formations at Arches and Canyonlands national parks over fears the city's hospital can't handle an outbreak. Officials this week limited hotel stays there to people in town for work and banned in-person restaurant dining

Nationally, park superintendents are devising ways to stay open while keeping people at safe distances from one another and trying to ensure park employees stay healthy.

Many parks closed visitor centers, museums and entrance booths while rangers are stationed outside to field visitors' questions. Though rangers are working, some parks warned people to be extra cautious and prepared, especially in places with wintry weather, because resources are strained amid the pandemic and rescues may be more difficult.

## Surgeries delayed to reduce supply strain

By Marilynn Marchione Associated Press

Some cancer surgeries are being delayed, many stent procedures for clogged arteries have been pushed back and infertility specialists were asked to postpone helping patients get preg-nant. Doctors in virtually every field are scrambling to alter care as the new coronavirus spreads.

Medical groups issued advice this week on how hospitals and doctors should adapt as beds and supplies are pinched and worries rise about exposing patients to possible infection. That includes canceling elective surgeries, including many for slow-growing or early-stage cancers, which many people would consider not elective at all.

Luciano Orsini's operation, set for April 1 at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, was pushed to April 29. He lost one kidney to cancer last year and was eager for this surgery to remove tumors on the sole kidney he has left.

"I don't want it to get any larger," Orsini said of his cancer, which his doctor says it's growing so slowly that he should be safe waiting. He understands but said: "The anxiety of just have this inside of you and not knowing and wanting to get it out" is hard

Choices like this are happening across the United States, said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld of the American Cancer Society.

"We are going to face ethical dilemmas, not just in cancer care but in medical care in general, he said. "We recognize that any delay is not good but we may not have a choice.'

The cancer society on Tuesday urged people to forgo mammograms, colonoscopies and other routine cancer screenings until the outbreak eases.

On Wednesday, Vice President Mike Pence called on hospitals to delay all elective procedures across the country to help ensure medical capacity is focused on stemming the spread of the coronavirus. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services administrator Seema Verma said her agency will soon issue guidance on elective procedures, including dental

Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, also addressed the issue, telling hospitals and dentists: "Things that don't need to be done over the next two weeks, don't get it done."

# Inmates argue for release citing concerns over virus

Associated Pre

NEW YORK — Coronavirus has become a 'get out of jail' card for hundreds of low-level inmates across the country, and even hard-timers are seeking freedom with the argument that it's not a matter of if but when the deadly illness sweeps through tightly packed populations behind bars.

Among those pleading for compassionate release or home detention are the former head of the Cali drug cartel, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney Michael Cohen, Ponsischemer Bernard Madoff and dozens of immates at New York City's Rikers Island, part of a jail system that lost an employee to the virus this week.

"He is in poor health. He is 81 years old," David Oscar Markut Oscar Markut he attorney for cocaine kingpin Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela, wrote in emergency court papers this week seeking his release after serving about half of a 30-year drug-trafficking sentence. "When (not if) COVID-19 hits his prison, he will not have much of a

While widespread outbreaks of coronavirus behind bars have yet to happen, the frenzy of legal activity underscores a crude reality that's only beginning to sink in: America's nearly 7,000 jails, prisons and correction facilities are an ideal breeding ground for the virus, as dangerous as nursing homes and cruise ships but far less sanitary.

Stepped-up cleanings and a temporary halt to visitations at many lockups across the country in the midst of the crisis can't make up for the fact that ventilation behind bars is often poor, inmates sleep in close quarters and share a small number of bathrooms.

"Simply put, it's impossible to do social distancing," said David S. Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor in Miami.

The 81-year-old Madoff, who is serving a 150-year sentence for bilking thousands of investors in a 817.5 billion Ponzi scheme, had just asked last month to be released early in light of his terminal kidney disease. Now his attorney is calling on all at-risk

federal prisoners to be released for their own safety because of the coronavirus.

"The federal prison system has consistently shown an inability to respond to major crises," Madoff attorney Brandon Sample told The Associated Press. "My concerns are even more amplified for prisoners at federal medical centers and those who are aged."

As of Wednesday, two federal Bureau of Prisons staff members have tested positive for coronavirus, a person familiar with the matter told the AP. One of the staffers works in a correctional facility in Berlin, N.H., and the other works in an office in Grand Prairie, Texas, but there were still no confirmed cases among any of the 175.000 inmates in the BOP system, the person said. The person, who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, would not say how many inmates, if any, have been tested for coronavirus.

Michael Avenatti, the once highflying lawyer who was recently convicted of trying to extort Nike,



PAT SUTPHIN, THE TIMES-NEWS/A

Inmates pass the time within their cell block at the Twin Falls County Jail in Twin Falls, Idaho, in 2018.

asked a judge Wednesday to release him to home confinement. A court motion said Avenatti was particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus in part because his cellmate in Manhattan's Meropolitan Correctional Center was removed from his cell due to flulike symptoms.

"He is part of the general population incarcerated under unsanitary and disease-prone conditions," attorney H. Dean Steward wrote in the court filing. "He also had pneumonia six months ago."

It's not just attorneys for the wealthy and powerful seeking release.

In New York, public defenders

in New Tork, public defenders

BEN MARGOT/AF

asked judges to release older and at-risk immates from the city's beleaguered federal jails, saying pretrial confinement "creates the ideal environment for the transmission of contagious disease." The motions cite a provision of the Bail Reform Act allowing for the temporary release of pretrial immates under "compelling" circumstances.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said Wednesday that over the next 48 hours the city will identify any inmates held in minor charges it thinks should be released because of their health. "We've got to balance, here, public safety with the very real concern about health in the jails."

## California to spend \$150 million to protect homeless

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — As worries about the spread of the coronavirus confine millions of Californians to their homes, concern is growing about those who have no homes in which to shelter.

California has more than 150,000 homeless people, the most in the nation, and there's concern that as the rest of the state's residents are being told to stay apart and to frequently wash their hands, the homeless are living just as they did before the outbreak.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday said it's possible 60,000 could contract the virus. The governor announced he would spend \$150 million on efforts to prevent the COVID-19 virus from sweeping through that population.

"I hope you get a sense of the seriousness we're taking the issue of homelessness," Newsom said in a Facebook Live broadcast.

Two-thirds of the money will go directly to local governments to spend on home-less services and \$50 million will be used by the state to purchase 1,300 travel trailers and lease hotel rooms for emergency housing.

The trailers will be used for homeless people requiring isolation after testing positive for the virus or who are showing symptoms. California also has identified 950 hotels that could lease rooms to local governments to house the homeless.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that the city, through the Red Cross, will provide 6,000 emergency beds at recreation centers, including 1,600 by week's end.

"Too many ... lack a basic necessity that will help most of us get through this crisis: a home," Garcetti said.

LA has an estimated 27,000 of the coun-



A homeless person camps on a street bench Tuesday in Oakland, Calif.

ty's 60,000 homeless people. Garcetti said the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority will be asked to identify 4,000 people throughout the county who are most at risk from the virus because of their age or medical conditions.

People in shelters who have virus symptoms will be taken to receive medical care, Garcetti said.

To date, the city hasn't confirmed any virus cases among homeless people, who are difficult to test and treat because they may move frequently or refuse medical care. However, 'they are the ones who disproportionately could die as a result of this crisis,' Garcetti said.

The city also has set up hundreds of hand-washing stations and mobile toilets at homeless encampments and the City Council voted Tuesday to suspend an ordinance requiring homeless people to take down their tents during the day so that transients can at least shelter there.

The California Department of Public Health said Wednesday that the state now has 13 deaths related to the virus and more than 700 confirmed cases. More than 11,900 people are self-monitoring after returning from overseas.

Meanwhile, the pandemic continued to affect virtually every facet of Californians' lives as businesses shut down, either because they weren't considered "essential" under shelter-in-place health orders or for lack of customers as streets turned into shost towns.

Newsom said that the state had received 80,000 claims for unemployment on Tuesday, compared to the usual rate of about 2,000 per day.

The governor has issued a series of emergency orders as the crisis spreads. Last week he urged all people over 65 and those with underlying health conditions to stay inside.

He also limited the size of gatherings to 250 people and called for the shutdown of bars, movie theaters, fitness centers and other gathering places, and for restaurants to only serve to-go orders.

With virtually all of the state's children out of school because of closures, Newsom suspended standardized testing this spring. And with the economy shedding jobs he waived certain reporting requirements for businesses making mass layoffs.

Newsom said he will not issue a statewide lockdown on people's movements, preferring to allow local governments to make those decisions. And many have enacted tighter restrictions.

Napa and Solano on Wednesday joined at least 12 other Northern California counties — an area home to about 10 million people and including all of the San Francisco Bay Area — in requiring residents to stay home and go out only for essential purposes such as trips to grocery stores and to jobs in health care and other industries deemed critical.

In Southern California, the city of Palm Springs enacted similar restrictions. Los Angeles, San Diego and other major population centers in the region have not gone that far but have urged people to remain at home as much as possible.



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**FEBRUARY 1 - JULY 31, 2020** 

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## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Stun gun used on suspect after chase

WA EVERETT — A suspect driving a reportedly stolen car in Washington state was stunned by deputies following a vehicle pursuit and foot race near south Everett, authorities said.

The 33-year-old man eluded a Snohomish County sheriff's deputy Tuesday by speeding away, darting into parking lots and dodging multiple pursuit intervention technique attempts, the Daily Herald reported.

Pursuing officers ultimately caused the vehicle to spin and crash into a cement barrier. The suspect then fled on foot, running across the road, up an embankment and jumping into brush, authorities said.

A deputy pursued and strug-

gled with the suspect until another deputy arrived and used a stun gun on the man, authorities said. The man was taken to the hospi-

tal for an evaluation, then booked into the Snohomish County Jail.

#### Boys come to aid of woman in icy pond

BROOKLYN PARK
— First responders and others are praising two
young boys who came to the aid
of a Minnesota woman who broke
through the ice on a pond near
her home.

Sheree Risvold was chasing

after her son, Jameson, 5, last Sunday. The child has autism and is fascinated by water. Jameson was watching Emer-

son Olson, 14, and his brother, Everett, 11, play basketball at Brook Oaks Park on Sunday when he took off running for the nearby pond.

Risyold told the Star Tribune

Risvold told the Star Tribune she broke through the ice after following Jameson onto the pond. The boy's sisters ran to the Olson brothers for help.

Emerson, who wants to be a doctor, called 911 and then Risvold's husband while Everett held

First responders arrived quickly and rescued Risvold.

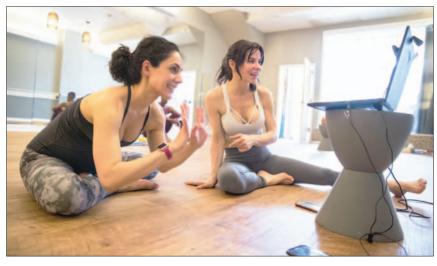
The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office plans to nominate the boys for life-saving awards.

## Man jailed twice for impersonating cop

BUNNELL—A Florida man is back in jail for impersonating a law enforcement officer just days after he was arrested for the exact same charge, sheriff's officials said.

LeRoy Stotelmyer, 60, was arrested March 11 after investigators got a tip from a toll bridge attendant who showed them video of the man flashing a law enforcement badge twice on March 11 avoid paying a \$2 toll, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post. On-duty officers are allowed to cross free of charge, officials said.

A toll booth attendant told investigators that Stotelmyer flashed the silver badge at him, and he in turn showed the man an article about his arrest for impersonating an officer. He said Sto-



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

## Namaste a click away

From left, Mariam Sufi and Lara Atella begin a yoga class via webcam at Hot Yoga Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. They are offering free live classes online during the coronavirus self-quarantine until they have enough videos to post to their website.

telmyer then put away the badge and paid the toll.

Sheriff Rick Staly said Stocharges of impersonating an officer and shoplifting. On March 11 he was charged with felony violation of pre-trial release and impersonating an officer. He was being held without bond.

## Baby gray seal rescued from state park beach

LEWES — A baby seal has been rescued on one of Delaware's beaches.

The News Journal reported that the young gray seal was recovered Tuesday on the beach at Cape Henlopen State Park near Lewes.

Suzanne Thurman, executive director of Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation Institute, and a small team of volunteers wearing masks to protect against the coronavirus worked closely together during the rescuer The rescuers named the animal Finnigan in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Patrick's Day.

Thurman said the seal is probably about one month old. It was suffering from what appeared to be two wounds on its back.

The rescuers plan to find a rehabilitation center to help the seal

## Police: No one hit by shots fired in grocery

OMAHA—Shots were fired in the parking lot and inside an Omaha grocery store Tuesday evening, but there were no shooting victims and a suspect is in custody, police said.

THE CENSUS

sity of South Carolina Upstate is accused of setting since Feburary, authorities said. Brandon Michael Burt, 19, of Suwanee, Ga., was booked Monday in the Spartanhurg County jail on a charge of third-degree arson, news outlets reported. Warrants stated Burt is accused of setting a dumpster fire at an apartment complex, WSPA-TV anonted. Burt is also susencet of setting about 20 fires since Eshivary on the

The approximate number of fires a sophomore at the Univer-

TV reported. Burt is also suspected of setting about 20 fires since February on the USC Upstate campus, said Dave Myers, the university's assistant chief of police.

Police and medics were called to the Hy-Vee store on the city's southwest side just after 6:30 p.m. The suspect was taken to a hospital with minor injuries, Omaha police Deputy Chief Ken Kanger said. A woman also suffered minor injuries while fleeing the scene, he said.

A man in his 20s spent about 30 minutes parked outside the store before opening fire on vehicles at the pharmacy drive-through window, Kanger said. He then walked into the store pharmacy area and opened fire.

An off-duty officer and a customer grabbed the man and subdued him after a scuffle for the

## Man says he doesn't remember stealing TVs

GALLUP — A New Mexico man is facing charges after he told police he unknowingly stole two televisions while drunk.

The Gallup Independent reported Sage Aaron Cummins, 24, was arrested last week shortly following his arrival to the victim's apartment to return the TVs.

According to Gallup police, an officer was investigating a bur-

glary report when Cummins approached him and admitted he had stolen the televisions from the victim's home. Cummins told police he was "very intoxicated" when he entered the residence.

A police report says Cummins said he only remembered knocking on the door and, when it was apparent that no one was home, he entered the residence. Cummins says he did not remember what happened after that.

Cummins was informed two days later who the televisions belonged to by a mutual friend of his and the victim. Cummins told police "he wanted to make things right and return the stolen items," according to a police report.

## Sheriff: Principal hit deputy during call

HOUMA — A Louisiana high school principal was arrested and accused of hitting a deputy, authorities said.

Ellender High School principal Darrell Lyn Dillard, 55, was arrested Saturday and charged with one count of misdemeanor battery of a police officer, The Houma Courier reported.

The Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office said deputies were responding to a domestic disturbance call around 12:30 a.m. Saturday. Deputies were taking two individuals into custody when Dillard appeared and charged toward one of the suspects, the sheriff's office said. Dillard hit one of the deputies who was in front of the suspect, authorities said. Dillard was later taken into custody.

Schools Superintendent Philip Martin said Monday the incident is under investigation, the newspaper reported.

#### Grenade on display at Gettysburg destroyed

PA GETTYSBURG — A World War II-era grenade that had been on display in a museum at the Gettysburg battlefield in central Pennsylvania was recently removed and destroyed, officials said.

The Eisenhower National Historic Site said the grenade had been on display since March 2018 in an exhibit at the Gettysburg March colonal Miltary Park Museum and Visitor Center titled "Eisenhower's Leadership from Camp Colt to D-Day." Officials identified the grenade as a Mark II Fragmentation Grenade with a MI0A3 Fluse, a common armament that would have been used during the June 1944 D-Day assaults on Omaha and Utah beaches in Normandy, France.

Officials say the grenade was identified during a National Park Service survey of historic armaments in park museum collections, and staff members determined that it "could not be conclusively proven to be active or inactive."

From wire reports

# WEEKEND



Nioh 2 a deep, complex action title

# what's **BINGE-WORTHY?**



## WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY



HELENE FOUQUET Bloomberg

he new coronavirus that's forcing lockdowns and roiling economies is spurring a silent revolution in the field of telemedi-

As COVID-19 spreads across Europe, leaving new patients in its wake, the fear of infection and a saturated health-care system are driving large numbers of people online for medical consultations. Startups like General Atlantic-backed Doctolib and insurer Axa-supported Qare in France, Swedish Kry International's unit Livi, the U.K.'s Push Doctor and Germany's Compugroup Medical that offer up virtual doctors are raking it in.

"It's unfortunate, but the current epidemic is pushing patients to make the leap, and it can ac-celerate a change in habits," said Olivier Thierry, chief executive officer of Qare, a French platform that offers video consultations with its team of doctors. "Forecasts on growth are changing by the day."

The business of connecting doctors and nationts through video consultations has had a slow start in Europe because of patient reticence, an unfriendly regulatory environment, disparities in health-care systems and insurance rules. Now, with hospitals struggling to cope with the virus, patients are turning to such services and governments are setting aside reservations about the risks of "couch consultations" to ease regulations.

The European Commission in 2018 estimated that the global telemedicine market would reach 37 billion euros (\$42 billion) by 2021, with an annual growth rate of 14%. Those numbers may now be surpassed as virus concerns boost demand, making such consultations more routine and widely accepted.

Doctolib, the top French startup helping set up medical appointments, says it saw a 40% increase in bookings last week. It clocked up 130,000 video consultations in its first year in that business last

The startups that manage to broaden their customer base during the virus crisis will find themselves in an increasingly crowded race.

In France alone, the market is spread between Qare, Livi, Mesdocteurs, HelloConsult, Medaviz, Hellocare, DoctoConsult and Doctolib. In the U.K., the business is shared by Babylon Health, which got funding from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, Push Doctor, askmyGP and Livi.

The current epidemic will show which players are "equipped, scaled and have the ability to face the crisis," said Wais Shaifta, the CEO of Push Doctor, whose backers include Partech and Draper Venture Network. The U.K. company, which works with the NHS, has added 20% more consultations since the start of the year, with a bump since last week. Shaifta expects the virus to push numbers even higher.

Telemedicine includes consultations not only

with general practitioners but also in specialized areas such mental health, cardiology, dermatology and others, depending on local regulations. Dutch startup Ksyos has invested in the business in the Netherlands, Italy and Austria, and helps patients with long-term ailments to consult doctors on a regular basis

For all its growth, though, telemedicine is not without its detractors.

In April, PWC cited an American pediatric doctors' analysis report, that "telemedicine may benefit patients by making care more convenient and accessible, but new data suggests it may also contribute to the over-prescribing of antibiotics by physicians who aren't able to physically examine their patients."

"Health care is a serious thing, and reliable treatments cannot be traded for the comfort of consultations from a couch," said Jean-Paul Hamon of the French doctors' federation. "Telemedicine must be used with more judgment, and authorities must make sure it's not spreading into a business." He said the coronavirus shouldn't be "the excuse" to market telemedicine.

At the December congress of the industry group called Telemedicine Society, Nicolas Revel, who heads France's state health-insurance system, said he wasn't comfortable with the rise of "patient-consumers."

Countries like Switzerland and Estonia have long used the system, initially with telephone consultations. Switzerland is starting to test video medicine with connected self-measurement devices that patients can use in their homes.

In the Netherlands, the government says people who want "care and support at home should be able to communicate with their care provider 24 hours a day via a screen." A startup called BeterDichtbij, better-closer in Dutch, offers a WhatsApp-type consultation with doctors.

In Germany, the state has started relaxing rules on remote treatment, but the national culture around privacy and data protection remains a barrier. Doctolib, which entered the market with its appointment-booking offer, has yet to try telehealth in Europe's biggest market, while Kry's Livi is starting to make inroads.

Governments have been cautious about the spread of the practice, putting the brakes mainly through what they're willing to reimburse and what is covered by health insurance. The French state, for instance, has been concerned about what it sees as the emergence of a parallel "private health-care" system.

"It's not about our growth, but the government has put limits that don't allow people to access telemedicine in some remote areas," said Qare's Thierry, calling such regulations a "straitjacket."
The coronavirus may be changing that.

French Health Minister Olivier Veran said last week the government has published a decree easing reimbursement rules for patients using

### GADGET WATCH

## Over-the-ear headphones that pass the comfort test

By GREGG ELLMAN Tribune News Service

nker's brand new overthe-ear headphones. the Soundcore Life O20, are packed with features at a reasonable price.

These over-the-head 9.3-ounce headphones passed my comfort test from the get-go with memory foam ear cups and the headband. which has rotating joints to adjust up to 90 degrees for a customized fit based on the shape of your head.



The headphones are packed with features including hybrid active noise cancellation and a userfriendly battery life of 60 hours of audio with the ANC off and 40 hours with it on. With the ANC on, the headphones can detect and essentially cancel a wide range of background noises with low and mid-frequencies including street noise, plane engines, etc

Anker technology in the headphones features Life Q20's certified Hi-Res Audio, delivering music with clear and natural sound from custom 40 mm dvnamic drivers in each ear cup.

A boost of bass is easy with the BassUp Technology, defined as 'a customized algorithm to perform real-time analysis on your music and intensify the low frequencies for hard-hitting beats.' To activate, double press the play button on the side of the ear.

The power button on the ear cup doubles for activating Bluetooth 5 to easily pair the headphones with your device. It also has built-in microphones for handsfree calls. Charging takes about three hours (microUSB), but you can use them wired with the included 3.5 mm AUX cable. A travel pouch is included

Online: soundcore.com; \$59.99

Ultimate Ears has launched the brand's biggest, loudest and bassiest speaker yet with the Hyperboom.

With the booming bass, the party-happy speaker has a wide dynamic range that brings your music to life, rendering ever note in rich detail, and a USB

rechargeable 24-hour battery. Adaptive EQ inside the sneaker reads the environment and automatically adjusts the sound to fill any space.

The Hyperboom (14.33-by-7.5-by-7.5 inches) supports two Bluetooth,

one 3.5 mm auxiliary and one optical audio connection to play music from your phones. laptop or gaming console, and allows you to switch between them with the press of a button.

It's built with a splash-proof PX4 rating and a built-in USB charge-out port will charge your smartphone

Online: ultimateears.com; \$399 99

Kingston Digital Inc. has refreshed its Canvas series flash cards to Canvas Plus. The new SD and microSD lineup include Kingston's first UHS-II cards.

To keep up with the transfer speeds, updated MobileLite Plus UHS-II readers will support the Canvas line of memory cards. The Canvas Plus SD and microSD memory cards are designed with increased performance for DSLRs, 4K/8K video production.

Canvas Plus offers three choices, Select Plus, Go! Plus, and React Plus for the latest high speed and large files, but they are also backwards compatible with UHS-I and conventional SD bus standards.

The pocket-size plug-and-play MobileLite Plus readers have UHS-II speeds for faster file transfers and processing time. MobileLite Plus readers will be available individually or as part of a bundle. Prices vary by card and capac-

ity. Online: kingston.com













KINGSTON DIGITAL INC /TNS

Kingston Digital Inc., has refreshed its Canvas series flash cards.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL AND TECHNOLOGY











Stars and Stripes photos

# Virtual tours

# In coronavirus quarantine? You can visit these historic sites and attractions from your couch

By DREW JONES The Washington Post

a governments across the world implement "social distancing" efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus, in some cities, bars, restaurants and other public spaces have been ordered to close. That leaves self-quarantined people with a lot of free time and nowhere to go.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended postponing all large gatherings or events of 50 or more people until May, which left operators of tourist attractions with few options. Museums, historical sites and national parks have stepped up to deliver their signature experiences by offering virtual tours.

Here's a list of a few places travelers can tour

without having to leave the couch.

- 1. British Museum: The word's oldest national public museum is another space that has partnered with Google Arts & Culture to showcase a virtual, interactive gallery. Visitors can roam the halls of the museum, peruse the exhibits and see famous objects like the Rosetta Stone, the Parthenon sculptures and Egyptian mummies. Just don't expect to see any Banksys lying around anytime soon. Online: artsandculture. google.com/partner/the-british-museum
- 2. Yosemite National Park: While parts of the park are still open for the season, those who can't make it to California's Sierra Nevada region can still tour the park—complete with sound—and visit some of Yosemite's cionci landmarks, including the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the top of the Half Dome and the eponymous Yosemite Falls.

Online: virtualyosemite.org/about-virtual-yosemite

- 3. Van Gogh Museum: The largest Van Gogh collection in the world 600 artworks and 700 letters—is housed in this Amsterdam museum and can be viewed via a virtual guided tour. View the inside of the museum along with insights into the Dutch postim-pressionist artist's life through paintings including "Sunflowers" and "The Yellow House." Online: tinyurl.com/td6bxob
- 4. The Great Wall of China: China's most famous attraction offers virtual tours of some of the most visited sections of the wall, 3,000 miles of which are walkable. With much of the country under quarantine measures, the virtual tour offers a reprieve from the crowds who normally come from all over the world to see the 2,000-year-old marvel. Online: the chinaguide. com/destination/great-wall-of-china
- 5. The Louvre: Last year, the world's most visited museum was the subject of lamentations over overcrowding and peculiar guest behavior. Now because of its closure, visitors to the Louvre can check out virtual tours of the Egyptian antiquities collection, remains of the Louvre's moat and the Galerie d'Apollon without having to brush by anyone's shoulders.
  Online: louvre,f'ren/visites-en-ligne
- 6. Sistine Chapel: The national lockdown in Italy has forced the country to a near-standstill, shuttering public events, soccer stadiums and even the Vatican. Visitors can tour the interior artworks of the chapel, including its renowned ceiling and "The Last Judgment," by the Renaissance-era painter Michelangelo. Online: tinyurl.com/jūcgubta

- 7. Guggenheim Museum: The Guggenheim is offering VR access to its entire contemporary arts collection through a partnership with Google Arts & Culture. Using the Street View feature, visitors can tour the museum's iconic architecture, sprawling design and any of its galleries. Online: tinyurl.com/s63322x
- 8. Yellowstone National Park: Yellowstone holds some of the nation's most iconic historical landmarks. The virtual tour takes visitors through the first national park, showing Wyoming's most treasured sites including its canyons, hot springs and geysers, the most famous being Old Paithful. Online: timyuf.com/ufoqulc
- 9. Smithsonian National Museum
- of Natural History: The Smithsonian is offering virtual tours that let visitors take a self-guided, roomby-room trip through the museum's slate of exhibits. The current exhibits include the Butterfly Pavilion and the David H. Koch Hall of Fossils, and visitors can even journey through past exhibits, on topics including the last American dinosaurs, the universe, and DNA and genomics. Online: naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour
- 10. Museum of Modern Art: The MoMa has partnered with Google Arts & Culture to offer an interactive experience of the gallery space. The nearly 100-year-old museum is home to some of the contemporary art world's most famous pieces, including Claude Monet's "Water Lilies," Vincent van Gogh's "The Starry Night" and Pablo Picasso's "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon." Online: tinyurl.com/vxad/9o
- 11. San Diego Zoo: The most visited zoo in the country is known for its open-air, cageless natural habitats and is famous for being one of the few zoos in the country that spearheaded conservation efforts of giant pandas. Even though it no longer has giant pandas, the San Diego Zoo has set up live streams of its habitats for amone to view the koalas, baboons and penguins that call the zoo home. Online: animals.sandiegozoo. org/live-came.
- 12. Metropolitan Opera House: The Met in New York will host nightly encore performances of some of its most iconic shows throughout its season. The free streams will go live at 7:30 p.m. each day and be available for 20 hours after the performance. The slate includes the likes of Puccini's "La Boheme" and Verdi's "II Trovatore" for viewers on demand. Online: tinyur.com/skl306

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

# Isolation DBINGE

## 22 TV shows to watch as you wait out coronavirus at home

The Seattle Times

ue to unprecedented events taking place around the world, a lot of us may be finding ourselves staying home more than usual these days. And we'll be needing things to watch—not just movies, which kill maybe two hours or so, but multiseason TV shows in which we can get happily lost. In between washing our hands and monitoring the latest public health news, here's 22 binge-worthy TV shows available for streaming.



BBC America

#### 'Killing Eve' (BBC America; available on Hulu)

Like spy movies, old-school cat-and-mouse chases, lively acting and a peek into the mind of a cold-but-charming female assassin who has a complete lack of empathy for anyone except the female agent trying to track her down? This is the series for you. Based on the novel "Codename Villanelle" by Luke Jennings, this series shines in large part because of its strong casting. In 2019, Sandra Oh won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in a TV Drama for her portrayal of MIS agent Eve Polastri. Jodie Comer, who plays the assassin Villanelle, won an Emmy Award for Best Actress in a TV Drama this year. So, go ahead. Binge the first two seasons on Hulu and you'll be all caught up by April 26, when Season 3 begins on BBC America.

#### 'Russian Doll' (Netflix)

If you think you're mired in rut and routine while you're stuck at home for the foreseeable future, try being Natasha Lyonne in Netflix original "Russian Doll." Lyonne is delightfully vulgar and sympathetic as Nadia, a woman who is destined (doomed?) to repeat the same party, at which she is the guest of honor, over and over and over again. It sounds like an old trick (a la "Groundhog Day"), but this is a smart take with some unique devices, like the fact that Nadia doesn't just experience the same night over and over, but she actually dies (sometimes horribly, sometimes hilariously) at the end of each repeated night. Amy Poehler is one of the writers, and her skill at making the day-to-day of a "Parks and Recreation" office interesting for 125 episodes shines in this series about a day that won't end. You'll find yourself engrossed by the wit, tickled and touched by Lyonne's at times hilarious and at times deeply wounded character.



#### 'Tuca & Bertie' (Netflix)

This unjustly canceled Netflix series about a friendship between anxious perfectionist song thrush Bertie (voiced by Ali Wong) and Tuca, a big-hearted, extroverted toucan in recovery for substance-use issues (Tiffany Haddish), is the only show I've watched and immediately wondered, "Does this take place inside my brain?" The premise - from Lisa Hanawalt, who created the wildly gorgeous anthropomorphized creatures of "BoJack Horseman" - is preposterous: It's an animated show about 30-something bird-women that somehow manages to take on serious content - trauma, mental health, sobriety, workplace sexism - in a cartoon atmosphere that's insistently fun and bubbly. And while the dichotomy between introverted Bertie and brazen Tuca could fall flat if it were just that, I've always seen them as two sides of the same (delightful,



complex, vulnerable) personality, and their story as a surreal, comedic metaphor for the way our friends can expand our understanding of our own inner reserves. We all have a little Tuca and Bertie in us.

'Love Is Blind' (Netflix)

"Love Is Blind" is not a good TV show. The concept is like "The Bachelor," with a distinct arranged-marriage vibe, wherein a bunch of conventionally attractive people talk to each other through a wall and then get engaged without knowing what their (conventionally attractive) partners look like. Surprise! They (mostly) try to give their hot mystery dates a shot, cohabitating and planning weddings at a time when most of us are still only committed to the texting-funny-gifs stage of a relationship. Don't worry, it gets weirder! The "Love Is Blind" contestants are in-explicably shepherded through their stress-inducing journey by the one-time boy-band star and ex-husband of Jessica Simpson, Nick Lachey, and his wife, Vanessa Lachey (previously Minnillo), best known as host of MTVs "Ortal Request Live." Tve always found "The Bachelor" unwatchable, but there is so much going on in "Love Is Blind"—outdated gender norms, the horrors of cohabitation writ large, the collision between romance and the allure of one's phone, insecure and avoidant attachment styles and HEAVY emotions expressed in ways both functional and disastrous. It's a bad show and you'll feel bad that you watched it. You also won't be able to stop yourself.

#### 'American Vandal' (Netflix)

Since the day I first watched the pilot, I have wanted to scream from the rooftop of any and all buildings, "WATCH 'AMERICAN VANDAL"!" It is a searing, hilarious parody of the true-crime genre (think "Serial" or "Making a Murderer") with an incredibly well-written mystery arc, and a terrifyingly accurate depiction of high school antics in the 2010s.

#### 'High Fidelity' (Hulu)

I remember loving the John Cusack movie version of this Nick Hornby novel when it was released in 2000, but this 10-episode version starring Zoe Kravitz has 100% won my heart. Kravitz plays Rob, the curmudgeonly owner of Championship Vinyl and the character originally played by Cusack. Replacing Jack Black and Todd Louiso as Rob's employees and best friends are Da'Vine Joy Randolph as Cherise and David H. Holmes as Simon (who also happens to be one of Rob's top five desert island heartbreaks). Things have been delightfully updated for the times ... while also scattering a few Easter eggs throughout the episodes for fans of the movie. You still watch Rob be a selfish jerk, but you root for her a little bit more than when Cusack was in the driver's seat.

#### 'The Life of Birds'

(PBS; available on Amazon Prime)

At its root, the anxiety we're all feeling about coronavirus is about fear of death: the horror of the end of our own lives on this planet, sudden and stark and unknowable, as well as terror of the lives of our loved ones taken from us with a cruel finality. We know that statistically, we are almost certainly safe - knock frantically on wood - and yet we dread. It's time to be with the birds, light-boned and feathery and endlessly fascinating in their endless ways, absurd-looking or elegant, they of industrious nests and miraculous eggs and fuzzy baby chicks. This PBS documentary series is so vividly shot, it's incredible in the literal sense of not to be believed (how do they get the cameras so close to the birds?!), and the narration by the inimitable David Attenborough will soothe even the most existential anxiety (that accent!).



#### 'Curb Your Enthusiasm'

(HBO Now)

I want to hear Larry David's take on coronavirus because a quarantine sounds like his dream come true. The fictionalized take on the "Seinfeld" creator's life is wrapping up its 10th season now on HBO, so it's the perfect time to wind back across the bridges David has burned in his tireless quest to be right, no matter the argument (usually one he started). I won't defend L.D.'s petty squabbles with friends, family, Mocha Joe, his dry cleaner, an aggressive swan, Joseph from the Nativity scene and a slew of Hollywood folks, BUT David did once refuse to shake Ben Stiller's recently sneezed-in hand, ruining their relationship while displaying proper outbreak preparedness.

#### 'The Circle' (Netflix)

If you like reality television, or even if you don't, you should check this show out. A group of strangers all vie to be the most influential, but they can only interact with each other through an online system called "The Circle." With caffishing, romance, drama and a cast of unique characters, this show is the perfect recipe for a silly, but irresistible, watch.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

#### EDOM DACE 2

#### 'Monk'

(USA Network; available on Amazon Prime Video)

Tony Shalhoub won three Emmys for his role as Adrian Monk, the titular sleuth bent by the unsolved murder of his wife and the obsessive-compulsive disorder and phobias that intensified after her death. Plotlines dulled as the show trudged on, but there's enough heart in the script — and intrigue about Trudy's murder — to make eight seasons worth watching. "Monk" is easy to start and easy to love, and the protagonist's paranoia over germs has never been more relatable.



'One Day at a Time' (Netflix)

I idly checked out the first episode of Gloria Calderon Kellett's reboot of the 1970s sitcom, featuring three generations of a Cuban American family living together in more-or-less harmony, a while back, thinking it would be something pleasantly sitcommy to pass a half-hour. And, just like that, three seasons went by — and all I wanted was more. This show, led by the powerhouse duo of Justina Machado ("Six Feet Under") and living legend Rita Moreno, is quite possibly the sweetest, funniest streaming experience I've had in years; sitcommy, sure, but utterly charming in its depiction of family love.



'For All Mankind' (Apple TV)

I'm a sucker for space-related TV shows and alternate history, so this new Apple TV series hooked me from the get-go. The premise: What if the global space race had never ended? What if the Russians had beaten the U.S. to the moon? How would that have affected NASA's space program? One hint: In this alternate universe, we would have celebrated some badass female astronauts a lot sooner than we did. Set in the '60s, the show doesn't shy away from the societal issues of its time and deftly incorporates elements of history into a fast-moving narrative. You'll meet John Glem, Neil Armstrong, and one of the femane astronauts (Molly Cobb, played by Sonya Walger) is based loosely on real-life pioneer Jerrie Cobb, a trailblazing pilot who was the first woman to pass all the preflight tests that NASA's original Mercury? a stronauts took.

'Six Feet Under' (HBO; available on Amazon Prime, Hulu, HBO Now)

This HBO drama centered on the Fishers, a Los Angeles family who owned a funeral home, and every episode began with someone's life ending. Sounds dark, and it was, but this Alan Ball creation was so perfectly cast and elegantly written that I returned for more every Sunday back in the aughts — and have been looking ever since for an excuse to watch the whole thing beginning to end. The characters, not always lovable but having the messey imperfections and annoyances of real life, were always surprising; the message of how those we have lost linger among us was unexpectedly lyrical.



'Brooklyn Nine-Nine'

(NBC; available on Hulu)

You've probably already binged it twice by now, but it's smart, it's funny and, unlike many sitcoms that we're finding haven't aged well these days (since when is New York that white, "Friends"?), "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" has a wonderfully diverse east and is standing proof that you can be funny without being offensive. You may think you caught all the brilliant jokes the first two times you binged it, but like with a good book, you're guaranteed to find something new to laugh at with every rewatch.

'Call the Midwife' (PBS; available on Netflix)
A friend recommended this British period
drama, set in midcentury and centering on a
group of midwife/nurses living in a convent in
the working-class London district of Poplar,
and I quickly got hooked. This show is based on
the real-life memoirs of nurse Jennifer Worth,
and it's sort of the spiritual opposite of "Six Feet
Under": In every episode, a baby is born. In its
many seasons (its ninth recently aired in Britain,
and at least two more are planned), "Call the
Midwife" has explored some unexpectedly gritty
territory; this show is far more modern than it
appears at first glance, and it has a female en-

ergy that's both empowering and irresistible.

#### 'Sex Education' (Netflix)

Viewer discretion is advised with this one, but it's worth a watch. Being a teenager is awkward enough, but for the show's main character. Otis, it doesn't help that his mom, played by Gillian Anderson, is a sex therapist. He eventually teams up with his classmate Maeve to start an underground sex therapy clinic using the knowledge he's picked up from his mom. What could go wrong? Unsurprisingly, a lot, but it makes for an entertaining watch. The show is an honest, funny and open look at sexuality and growing up.



NI-ME.

#### 'You're the Worst' (FX: available on Hulu)

Frequently referred to as an "anti-romantic romantic comedy,"
"You're the Worst" contains one of the greatest love stories in modern
television. The show follows two love-cynics, Gretchen and Jimmy,
and their journey through love, relationships, happiness and other
wacky antics over the course of several years. I think the true genius
of the show is how it's able to effectively tackle tough subjects, like
depression, alcoholism and PTSD, with beautiful nuance, yet feature
the trashiest band of characters imaginable.

'Westworld' (HBO; available on Amazon Prime Video, HBO NOW, Hulu) This series — in which rich people live out their fantasies in a Wild West-set amusement park hosted by humanoid robots — becomes more twisted and multilayered as it goes along. Add to that the stellar cast (Evan Rachel Wood, Thandie Newton, Anthony Hopkins, Ed Harris, Jeffrey Wright, etc.), and this unsettling, violent, visually stunning sci-fi drama might have you, like me, hooked by the end of the first eniside.

#### 'Nathan for You'

(Comedy Central; available on Hulu)

Nathan Fielder graduated from one of Canada's top business schools with really good grades. He says so at the top of every "Nathan for You" episode before offering businesses ideas that the owners inevitably realize are ludicrous. The fun is in watching them eventually tell Nathan his ideas are terrible and that they don't want to hang out after taping ends. (He often asks.) Over four seasons, Fielder envisions initiatives like a gas-station rebate that requires customers camp overnight on a mountain, a cleaning service that deploys 40 housekeepers at once, a bar that circumvents smoking laws by rebranding as a hyper-realistic play - the list goes on. If you like humor that makes you cringe amid an unending uncomfortable silence, throw on "Nathan for You."

#### 'Orphan Black' (BBC America; available on Amazon Prime Video)

Yeah, this series — which starts grippingly when a woman sees someone who looks exactly like herself step into the path of an oncoming train — becomes increasingly silly. But the show always remains compelling, thanks to its sense of humor and the warmhearted sisterhood that develops among a group of women who discover they are all clones. The main reason to watch it, though, is for star Tatiana Maslany, who earned a well-deserved Lead Actress Emmy for playing more than a dozen clones, from a street-smart single mother to a book-smart bohemian scientist to a suburban soccer mom, and more.

#### 'Dark' (Netflix)

Nothing against the real town of Winden, Germany, but I have absolutely zero desire to visit after watching this creepy-as-al-lhell two-season (for now) series. The first German-language show to debut on Netfuls, "Dark" has been compared to "Stranger Things," but other than the '80s and some supernatural forces, the two shows have nothing in common. There are no kids in Ghostbusters costumes here, only two nuclear cooling towers dominating the rainy landscape plus an ominous forest complete with spook; caves. Wormholes, time travel, child abductions and more haunt four families over three generations connected in 33-year increments. It seems like everyone is hiding something, some secrets much more devestating than others.

#### 'Grey's Anatomy'

(ABC; available on ABC, Netflix, Hulu)

I'm not even ashamed to admit it. I have seen Every. Single. Episode. Of. This. Show. Sure, we've lost many characters (Alex! Derek! \*sob\* Arizona! Callie! Yang! Lexie! Mark!) to death, destruction and whatnot. And yes, if this hospital were real and I actually worked there, I would run screaming out the nearest exit because it is cursed with the worst luck of any building in America. However, I love this show because, after 16 seasons, these characters have become as familiar as friends. "Grey's" has always been about relationships - the medicine is just a vehicle to advance the drama! — and how the people around us get us through life's challenges. Also, it's set in a hospital full of fictional world-class doctors who somehow always pull out miraculous answers for the most confounding viruses, tumors and medical mysteries. So if it's hope you need in a time of pandemic, well, pull up "Grev's" and get acquainted with the doctors of Grey-Sloan Memorial Hospital.

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

#### NEW ON DVD

"1917": Two young British soldiers fighting in World War I, Lance Corporal Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) and Lance Corporal Schofield (George MacKay), are sent on a dangerous and possibly deadly mission: to cross behind enemy lines and deliver the message that the Germans, thought to be retreating, will overwhelm 1,600 men planning to attack. Among them is Blake's brother, and the attack must be stopped.

must be stopped. The cast is commanding with Chapman and MacKay at the helm (not to mention great cameos by Colin Firth, Benedict Cumberbatch and Andrews Scott, to name a few). Chapman gives Blake playful charisma and a hearthreaking dedication to his mission and brother, while MacKay instills quiet power into Schofield's emotive expressions. And the story is compelling, based on fragments of a real-life war story of writer-director Sam Mendes' grandfather.

But cinematographer Roger Deakins steals the show with his technical wizardry of making the film appear to be one continuous shot, giving it an immersive, often video gamelike feel. (The movie won best cinematography, visual effects and sound mixing at this year's Academy Awards). Also available on DVD.

"Clemency": A prison warden (Alfre Woodard) grapples with the consequences of carrying out executions.

"The Grudge": After a series of killings in a haunted house, a detective (Andrea Riseborough) investigates as the curse contin-

"The Song of Names": Years after his adopted violinist brother disappears, a man encounters a young musician, who shares a remarkably similar style. Tim Roth and Clive Owen star.

"Treadstone: Season One": The USA Network drama follows a Black Ops program in the Jason Bourne universe.

"Birds of Prey". Reeling from her breakup with the Joker, Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) teams up with three women to take down the evil Black Mask, among others. Costars include Rosie Perez, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Jurnee Smollett-Bell and Ewan McGregor. Available on DVD and Blu-ray in May.

"Cunningham": Documentary follows the life of legendary choreographer Merce Cunningham.

"Dolittle": A quirky doctor who talks to animals (Robert Downey Jr.) races to help save Queen Victoria (Jessie Buckley) from a serious illness.

"The Gentlemen": An expat in London (Matthew McConaughey) faces layers of schemes while attempting to sell off his weed business.

"Hunter's Moon": A sheriff (Thomas Jane) meets a malevolent force after responding to an attack on a trio of teenage girls.

"Just Mercy": Based on a true story, a young defense attorney (Michael B. Jordan) helps Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx) appeal his murder conviction.

Katie Foran-McHale/TNS



# Witherspoon is for women

## Her latest tv show, 'Little Fires Everywhere,' has women at the helm, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes

By NEAL JUSTIN Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

eese Witherspoon's shift to television has been a godsend for fellow female actors. For Apple TV's "The Morring Show," her media company, Hello Sunshine, lured Jennifer Aniston back to the small screen. "Big Little Lies," which she also helped bring to HBO, ended up spotlighting four Oscar-winning actresses, including Meryl Streep, who does TV about as often as most of us replace our water heaters.

But "Little Fires Everywhere," which started streaming March 18 on Hulu, might be her most significant game changer yet. While "Morning" and "Lies" relied on men in key positions behind the scenes, "Fires" rested almost entirely on contributions from women, starting with the source material, Celeste Ng's novel of the same name. Liz Tigelaar ("Life same name. Liz Tigelaar ("Life Unexpected") ran the writers' room, which included only one man in its eight seats. Lynn Shelton ("Your Sister's Sister") is directing half of the eight episodes, including the opener and the finale. All seven executive producers are women.

It's the next logical step for Witherspoon, who could end up being more renowned for her hiring practices than the characters she plays on screen.

"I made a conscious decision about eight years ago to start my own company, because I wasn't happy with the choices that were being made for me," she said in January at the Television Critics Association press tour "I guess I was psychic or something. I had no idea the whole world would open for us. I have to say that every woman that I've been working with in the past three years - whether it's Nicole Kidman or Jennifer Aniston - we all remark how much things have changed and

that we are put in a position of respect for our ideas."

In her latest series, Witherspoon plays Elena Richardson, a high-society mother who micromanages every aspect of her life. Hanky-panky with her husband is restricted to Wednesdays and Saturdays. Four ounces of wine a night is the limit. But her anal-retentive groove meets some bumps in the road when she invites a freespirited artist (Kerry Washington) into her household as the family housekeeper, a move that ignites heated conversations about gender, race and class.

There's a mystery afoot — just burned down Richardson's picture-perfect house — but the most intriguing draw here is reveiling in the feminine touches, from the neighborhood book club dissecting "The Vagina Monologues" to a soundtrack spinning Annie Lennox's "Little Bird," Liz Phair's "Whip-Smart" and Aretha Franklin's

D - -1- C4- - d-- ?

It's hard to imagine those elements being woven into the story without women calling the shots

"One of the exciting kind of side results of coming together as a community is that we've been able to grow our friendships and also grow professional relationships," said Washington, who also has an executive producer credit. "It's not just for our own advancement. As producers, we get to employ hundreds and hundreds of artists and activists, and now we can do it in environments that are safe and have values that embody our yalues."

The series' leads are just getting started. Witherspoon is developing more projects spearheaded by women, including "Daisy Jones & The Six" with "North Country" director Niki Caro. Washington helmed an upcoming episode of HBO's "Insecure".

In the new Hulu limited series "Little Fires Everywhere," based on the book written by Celeste Ng (center), Reese Witherspoon (right) plays high-society mother Elena Richardson and Kerry Washington (left) plays Mia. Richardson's housekeeper.

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS





PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS/Stars and Stripes

The entrance to the British Museum in London. The museum has more than 60 exhibits that are free to enter. Check britishmuseum.org for updates on the museum's hours of operation during the coronavirus pandemic.

# Still open for business

# Amid global worries over the coronavirus pandemic, some London attractions continue to receive visitors

By Christopher Dennis Stars and Stripes

n times of coronavirus self-isolation when government officials are advising against nonessential travel and military leaders have restricted what service members can do off-base, a trip to London may seem out of the question.

But the coronavirus will pass, and even while it's on top of us, many of London's best attractions have tried to remain open to the public. Check the rules imposed by the British government and your chain of command, and be sure to wash your hands frequently and stand back from the next person gazing at that classic painting if you go. If you feel sick, stay home.

Air Force Col. Kurt. A Wendt, commander of the 501st Combat Support Wing, on Tuesday restricted travel inside the M25 — the ring road around London — for active duty members and civilians in the U.K. except for official duty, which pretty much rules out any day trips to London in the immediate future. In a video message, he "strongly encouraged our civilian family members to comply as well."

When you can go, the perennial problem with Lonion is that a visit usually comes with a big price tag. A round-trip train ticket from Mildenhall or nearby Bury St. Edmunds, for instance, is a whopping 43 pounds, or

But there are ways around that I drive an hour and 20 minutes from Mildenhall to the London Underground station at Epping, east of London, park the car, hop on the Tube and ride into the city center. Transport for London has introduced enhanced cleaning methods for trains and buses during the coronavirus emergency.

An Oyster card, which will set you back 5 pounds, allows you to ride all public transportation in London and its suburbs, and can be purchased online or bought at train stations or visitor centers. You can add money to Oyster cards at refill stations located at the entrances to Tube stations. They take credit cards or cash.

Travelcards are another option for getting around. An off-peak pass covering zones 1 to 6 that you can start using after 9:30 a.m. costs 13:50 pounds. Epping is in Zone 6, and the places I wanted to go to are in Zone 1. Taking this option would have saved me another 3 pounds, but I got to Epping way before 9:30.

First, I headed to the British Museum, a 45-minute tube ride away. The museum has more than 60 galleries that are free to visit, with exhibits that will take you from Africa to ancient Greece, Syria and Egypt, and allow you to view the works of artists like French modernist painter Edouard Manet and post-impressionist Paul Cezanne.

The museum was open until mid-March but temporarily closed its doors on Wednesday.

After strolling around in the museum for several hours, I'd built up an appetite. I could have had a bite to eat at one of several cafes, a coffee lounge or two food trucks outside that offer reasonably priced meals. But I wanted to see a bit more of London, so I took a 20-minute Tube ride for 2.40 pounds that came off my Oyster card, got off at London Bridge station and walked to Borough Market (boroughmarket.org.uk), on the south bank of the Thames. The food choices at the market were dizzying everything from gumbo or pulled pork topped with mac and cheese, tapas. Taiwanese cuisine or a plain old sandwich to choose from. Prices range from 8 pounds for a bowl of seafood with rice to 5 pounds for a sandwich. The market was still open as of March 18, but communal seating has been removed, some employees are teleworking, and public events have been canceled.

After lunch, I headed to Monument station and the Sky Garden, a public indoor garden with a 360-degree view of London. Entry is free, but you need to book an entry ticket online (skygarden.london) several weeks in advance

Sky Garden is "working to continue our operations as normal, with the implementation of additional cleaning and disinfection measures" during the coronavirus pandemic, it says on its website. Check with them and the British Museum to see if they're open if you decide to go.

After the Sky Garden, I jumped on a Central Line tube train at Bank station and headed to Epping to get my car and drive home. The trip cost me 14:40 pounds in gas, 5 pounds for the Oyster card, 11:40 pounds for all my trips on the Tube, 7 pounds for lunch, and 6 pounds for parking, totaling just under 44 pounds for the day. That's about the same as a round-trip rail ticket, but a much better way to spend the day than just sitting on a train — and they may stop running anyway if passenger numbers continue to fall during the coronavirus emergency.

dennis.christopher@stripes.com Twitter: @chrisbdennis



A huge dish of paella awaits customers in Borough Market in south London. The market, located near London Bridge Tube station, is easily accessible by public transportation and foot.



Blue glazed shabtis, or mummiform figurines about 2 inches to a foot tall, displayed at the British Museum represent the high priests of Amun and family members.



The Monument, at the junction of Monument Street and Fish Street Hill, is dedicated to the great fire of 1666 that burned for three days and ruined much of the city.

## Weekend: travel

## **Europe**

# Staying in touch with home while traveling

hen I took my first solo trip to Europe in 1973, I must have kept my parents on the edge of their seats.

The day after my high school graduation, I headed to the airport, accompanied only by a good friend, a rucksack and a youthful sense of adventure. Throughout the monthslong trip, the only way of communicating with my folks back home was through postcards, since paying for international calls was beyond my Europe-Through-the-Gutter budget. Still, I managed to send a postcard covered in cramped writing nearly every day.

These days, traveling with a smartphone or tablet makes it easier than ever to keep in touch, from video-calling friends to sharing pictures on social media to keeping up to date with the family group text. A phone is also handy for on-the-ground travel chores: You can contact your travel companions if you get separated or if there's an emergency. And you can call restaurants to book a table and hotels to confirm reservations.

All newer phones work fine abroad, but if you're unsure, check with your mobile company. Research their international plan options, as rates can vary wildly; some plans (such as 'T-Mobile's) automatically include some international coverage. Before you purchase a plan, also consider how (and how much) you'll use it: Do you need to reliably make phone calls and send texts? Or just send an occasional message?

Unless your plan already includes international data, the easiest and cheapest way to travel with a phone is to keep it in airplane mode and just use Wi-Fi — avoiding all roaming charges altogether. (You can use Wi-Fi not only to get online, but also for calling and messaging.) It's easy to find Wi-Fi at cafes, transit hubs, tourist offices and public squares.

The biggest hurdle travelers face with using Wi-Fi is signal strength. Most accommodations in Europe offer free Wi-Fi to guests, but be aware: In some hotels—particularly historic ones with thick walls

D: 1 C:

— the signal doesn't work well (or at all) beyond the lobby. It's usually good enough to shoot off an email or text, but too slow for a video call.

For a more reliable connection, purchase an international data plan from your service provider before

your trip — allowing you to be online virtually everywhere. Some carriers charge a one-time fee for using data over a set time period, while others offer pay-as-yougo rates for each day you use data. If your data is limited (or expensive), save most of your online tasks for Wi-Fi so you don't use up your data allotment.

For example, download any travel-related apps — such as language translators or messaging apps — before your trip, or when you're on a fast Wi-Fi connection. Europeans love using WhatsApp, a messaging and voice-calling app that uses internet rather than a calling plan. Many mapping apps (including Google Maps) allow you to download maps for offline use.

If you plan to make a lot of calls in Europe or need faster connection speeds than your mobile carrier provides, consider buying a SIM card, which comes with prepaid calling credit and data. Before buying a SIM card, make sure that your phone is "unlocked" — meaning you can



ominic Arizona Bonuccelli/Ricksteves.co

It's easy to find Wi-Fi at cafes, transit hubs, tourist offices and public squares throughout Europe. The folks back home will probably appreciate hearing from you.

switch to a different SIM card, as opposed to being "locked" into the one your phone came with. This feature is becoming more common in newer phones, but be sure to check with your carrier before you leave home.

Using a SIM card is likely cheaper than your U.S. carrier's rates, even with an international plan. You can easily find SIM cards at department store electronics counters, newstands, and even in vending machines at airports. If you need help, purchase one from a mobile-phone shop, where the clerk can install it, set it up and answer questions. With the new SIM card in place, you can use your phone like you

would at home (albeit with a brand-new European phone number).

Of course, all of this assumes you want to be in touch while traveling. Consider a different approach: Truly unplug on your vacation, bury your phone in the bottom of your suitcase, forget about your email inbox and be present in Europe. In a pinch, you can make (pricey) calls from your hotel, and perhaps use a computer.

No matter which option you choose, you're sure to leave your loved ones in a more peaceful state of mind than I did.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

### TOP TRAVEL PICKS

In these uncertain times, when gathering in large groups is something we've all been warned against doing, solitary pursuits seem more appealing.

Here's a look at some new and/or highly-rated hiking trails to experience close to home or as part of a nature-filled getaway.

#### Germany

"Wandermagazin" is a German journal geared toward one of the country's favorite pastimes. Each year, hiking fans have the chance to nominate their favorite marked trails for the title of "Germany's most beautiful hiking paths." The award covers two categories: half or full-day trails, and long-distance routes. The two trails coming out on top in both categories are close to U.S. military installations.

#### Single-day tour

Die Wilde Endert: the 12-mile Wild Endert' route was voted the most beautiful single-day tour in 2019. The path starts off from the Kreuzritterburg ruins in the village of Ulmen in the Rhineland-Palatinate, roughly halfway between Koblenz and Trier. This castle, built by crusaders a thousand years ago, towers high above the Ulmen Maar. a lake in a volcanic crater.



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

The trail passes by an ancient stone cross and along a route named in honor of the nobles of the Carolingian era, beside the lively Rausch waterfall, past a pilgrimage church and monastery, across the Napoleon Bridge and by numerous abandoned mills before ending by the Mosel River in Cochem. Online: eifel. info/a-enderttal

#### Multi-day tour

ZweiTaelerSteig: The 65-mile 'Land of Two Valleys' trail is a challenging round-trip trek through the Elz and Simonswald Valleys of the Black Forest of Baden-Wuerttemberg. This fiveday hike is Germany's only trail to have an age restriction: those under 16 are not allowed on it. The trail begins near Freiburg and passes through wide valleys dotted with farms before heading over the 4,000-foot Kandel Mountain, through the Teichschlucht gorge and past the Huberfelsen granite rock formation. A wide assortment of rustic restaurants, hotels and holiday rental apartments means hikers are assured of full bellies and a good night's sleep along the way. Online: zweitaelersteig.

#### Italy

Il Sentiero degli Dei: The Path of the Gods is a five-mile, half-day hiking route towering high above the heart-stoppingly beautiful Amalfi Coast south of Naples. Although the terrain itself is not particularly challenging, it's not for those who suffer from vertigo. The trail starts in the hills of Agerola, a section of Bomerano, and ends in Nocelle, which makes up part of the area's most famous town, Positano. With bird's-eye views of the azure blue seas and the island of Capri in the distance, it might be hard to keep one's eye on the trail. Once in Nocelle, 1,500 steps takes one into the heart of Positano; with 300 more, a plunge in the seas is a just reward. It's possible to reach Bomerano by means of a 40-minute ride on a SITA public city bus departing from the city of Amalfi several



iStoc

#### The Path of the Gods along Italy's Amalfi coast is five miles of beauty.

times daily. Online: positano. com/en/e/il-sentiero-degli-dei

#### England

England Coast Path: 15 National Trails for long-distance walkers, cyclists and riders on horseback traverse some of England and Wales' most spectacular landscapes. Upon its anticipated completion sometime later in 2020, the England Coast Path will not only be the longest of all National Trails; its staggering 2,795-mile distance will make it the longest managed and waymarked coastal trail in the world. Several of its sections are already open and welcoming walkers, among them the part of the North East section between Filey Brigg and South Bents. This stretch encompasses the cities of Scarborough and Newcastle. Sights to take in along the way might include the St. Mary's or Souter Lighthouses, the Arbeia Roman Fort, a tern breeding colony, the Victorian charmer Saltburn-by-the-Sea with its pier and water-balanced cliff lift, or the haunting remains of the gothic Whitby Abbey. Online: tinyurl.com/t5xpcnw

# **Making** house calls

While everyone's being told not to venture out, Die Alte Kanzlei in Stuttgart will come to you

By JOHN VANDIVER Stars and Stripes

ve long had a distaste for the comparatively cramped dining arrangements at many of Stuttgart's restaurants. But on a recent visit down-

town, there was a welcome sight at one of the city's busiest eateries: No customers. An upshot of the coronavirus emergency is that personal space, even at places known for their bustle, is in healthy supply. The downside of venturing out: maybe that bite of food was sneezed on by a stranger in the kitchen. But we have to keep the faith and believe that restaurants are telling their staff to stay home at the slightest sign of illness. You kind of hope they'd do that anyway, virus or

Nonetheless, I tamped down my anxiety and went to Die Alte Kanzlei, a Stuttgart culinary institution in the center of town The restaurant has about 50 tables outside that look upon Stuttgart's lovely Schillerplatz. For that and other obvious reasons, I chose to eat al fresco.

It was a little after 11 a.m., so I figured I'd have breakfast. But the waitress told me I was minutes too late. A pity, since Alte Kanzlei has some of the best breakfast offerings in town. The a la carte menu includes things like scrambled egg with salmon or a breakfast tray with salami, ham, slices of cheese, cream cheese, melon and three rolls with butter, or you can get



French, Swiss, or regional German breakfasts, or a shareable breakfast with at least two of everything and optional sparkling wine.

The rest of the menu also has lots of options, including regional specialties like maultaschen — filled pasta pillows that are sometimes described as the German answer to pierogie

and spaetzle noodles. But I went with a warm bowl of power food — roasted beets, pureed sweet potatoes, quinoa, a kind of ratatouille relish and a topping of pumpkin seeds and oil. It was an immune system booster that turned out to be delicious.

Meals at Alte Kanzlei range from five to 20 euros. The atmo-sphere indoors is relaxed with high ceilings and table arrangements that are tolerably spaced, even in normal times.

As I paid my bill, I wished the waitress luck and health in these trying times. She said everything would probably be back to normal in a month.

Hours later, Stuttgart announced all restaurants, and pretty much everything else in town, would be closed until mid-

So, like many other eating



Die Alte Kanzlei in Stuttgart has a wide-ranging menu with lots of local specialties. This power food bowl of roasted beets, pureed sweet potato and other healthy ingredients may have been the ideal choice of dish to order to bolster the immune system during the coronavirus outbreak.



Die Alte Kanzlei in Stuttgart was completely empty on Tuesday because of concerns about the coronavirus.

establishments around Germany. Alte Kanzlei has become inventive and is offering to bring its popular wine tastings and food pairings into your home. For 49 euros per person for a minimum of four people, restaurant owner Dennis Shipley will bring six French, Italian or regional German wines and an assortment of finger foods to your house for you and your guests to try. The evening, including Shipley's commentaries, lasts roughly 2.5 hours - the same time as a relaxed evening out.

Hopefully, that inventiveness and Alte Kanzlei's sterling repu-

## DIE ALTE KANZLEI

Location: Schillerplatz 5a Hours: Closed until fur-ther notice but normally Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.- 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.

English menu: Yes Prices: From 5 euros to 20

Information: Online: altekanzlei-stuttgart.de For the Wine Tasting at Home, buy gift tokens online at alte-kanzlei-stuttgart.de/produkt/wein-tasting-at-home and then send an email to info@alte-kanzlei-stuttgart.de

— Jon Vandiver

tation will allow it to ride out the coronavirus crisis.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

## The secret to perfect Irish coffee is something unexpected

By ELIZABETH KARMEL Associated Press

Last summer, I traveled to Ireland to learn about Irish whiskey, a spirit I knew relatively little about. The Irish drink I knew better was Guinness, which I enjoyed occasionally and use to make my favorite Chocolate Chocolate

Turns out, I am not alone in my unfamiliarity with Irish whiskey. Today's Irish whiskey industry is relatively young. It all but died out after Ireland gained independence from Britain in 1922. In 1980, there were only two distilleries, Bushmills and Midleton, makers of Jameson and other well-known brands. Today, there are 31. Irish whiskey, like the whiskey industry generally, is booming.

Before I got to Ireland, I wondered if Irish Coffee there is like German Chocolate Cake in Germany — an American creation. But almost everywhere we went, we were served an Irish Coffee. And they were delicious. Way better than anything I had experienced in the States

Some versions of Irish Coffee in Ireland were simple

and plain: strong with whiskey. Others had been accessorized with a sprinkle of cocoa or cinnamon and sweetened with vanilla-bean syrup, chocolate or caramel like a fancy coffee drink. They were all good, but for me, one stood out.

After lunch one day, we went to the Stag's Head pub in Dublin. It sits at the end of a pedestrian street and has been a beloved part of the Dublin landscape for 250 years. It is a warm, convivial space, the perfect place to experience a neat Irish whiskey with a half-pint of Guinness on the side - my favorite order during my trip

After consuming my first round, I ordered an Irish Coffee "in the name of research." I was not disappointed. The coffee was flavorful but light — not bitter at all. It complemented and softened the sharp Irish whiskey; when you sipped it through the rich pillows of fresh, thickened cream, the bite of the whiskey was tamed, and it was heavenly.

The Irish Coffee was so exceptional that I asked the manager of the pub for the secret. He was hesitant at first to tell me, and then said I wouldn't believe it. I anticipated

that he was going to say it was Ireland's exceptional cream. But that wasn't it.

The secret to a great Irish Coffee, it turns out, is instant

That's right - the instant coffee you can get at the grocery store. He told me you can't use coffee that is too strong, too flavorful or, in his words, too "good." Those coffees will upset the balance of the drink.

So, you need instant coffee, Irish whiskey and the best cream you can find, thickened but not whipped. Layer the coffee, whiskey and cream in that order in a tall mug.

When I came home, I started making the Dublin pub's Irish Coffee with instant espresso powder because that's what I had on hand. A spoonful of the powder mixed with 5 ounces of boiling water made the base. I added 1 ounce of Irish whiskey and a big dollop of thickened, heavy cream. It's important that the water is boiling, because the cream is cold and will cool off the coffee as you drink it. This Irish Coffee is easy, feels like a treat, and is both relaxing and invigorating, a welcome change from hot tea and hot chocolate when you come in from the cold

# **Hidden history**

In Britain, these Oxford walking tours highlight the often-glossed-over parts of the city's past

> By TIFFANY CASSIDY Special to The Washington Post

here is no dearth of Oxford city tours.

Among them are outings that focus on the city's architecture, ghosts, pubs and literary history — there is even one dedicated to "Inspector Morse." But I was drawn to a different one. On a recent overcast Sunday afternoon, I joined a handful of strangers for an Uncomfortable Oxford tour — a 90-minute guided walk that promised a lively discussion of "imperialism, gender and inequality" against the city's beautiful backdrop.

The four started in front of Oriel College's Rhodes Building, a stunning Edwardian edifice, where the student guide posed a question: What do we really know about Cecil Rhodes, whose High Street statue looks down on all of us? You may know the name from the Rhodes scholarships created from his bequest. But did you also know that much of his money came from his South African diamond mining company, De Beers, which at one time racially segregated its migrant laborers and locked them in compounds for the duration of their contracts?

Rhodes' money paid for both the building and the statue we were standing under, which bears a Latin inscription acknowledging his generosity. As the tour's name suggests, starting with one of Oxford's most controversial historical figures is very much the point. Our walk was designed to make participants feel uneasy. Over the course of the tour, our guide pointed out buildings funded by slavery, cited polarizing figures who have spoken at Oxford University's debate hall and invited us to share our views.

Tours that explore the troubling aspects of a destination's history are a growing travel trend. The Exhibitionist's Uncomfortable Art tours in London demonstrate how colonialism shaped many major art collections. In Berlin, Refugee Voices Tours spotlight the refugee rights movement and explore the challenges faced by local asylum seekers. Sydney's Barani website includes a map that allows visitors to take self-guided tours to historical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sites.

The founders of Uncomfortable Oxford say the emphasis on discussion sets their tours apart — participants are asked to voice their opinions and listen to the opinions of strangers from around the world. They want visitors to leave thinking about more than the beautiful architecture they've just

"They should be walking away with more questions than when they came, and then they should apply those questions to every space they walk into next," said Paula Larsson, who co-founded the company with Olivia Durand last year. "Analysis of your built environment as you walk through it."

In front of the Rhodes statue, opinions flew. In 2015, our guide told the group, the protest movement Rhodes Must Fall asked for its removal. Someone pointed out that taking down the statue might erase history — perhaps the best option is to add a sign or physical symbol next to the statue that provides context. Others discussed how, in

## KNOW & GO

Uncomfortable Oxford
Call: 011-44-1865-479791
Online: uncomfortableoxford.
co.uk

Tours are currently canceled until further notice due to the current health crisis.

When it resumes: The

"Original Uncomfortable Tour" covers a range of topics about the city and the university, from the controversial figure Cecil Rhodes to the way the city memorializes local soldiers. 90-minute tours Saturday at 11 a.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Adults about \$1.7; students/seniors about \$1.2;

children about \$8.



Left: The Oxford Union is home to the University of Oxford's debating society, and is seen as a place for the U.K.'s future politicians to practice their oratorial skills.

Tiffany Cassidy Photos for The Washington Post





light of Rhodes' opinions on race — he famously observed that the British were "the finest race in the world" and should inhabit as much of it as possible — the sheer presence of the statue might make students of the college uncomfortable.

It's these kinds of topics that Uncomfortable Oxford wants to tackle with local examples. "Controversial statues exist everywhere," Durand said.

Our next stop was in front of All Souls College. It's a large building that you can barely see through an ornate black-and-gold gate. As we stood outside its walls, the guide explained the prestigious college's connection to the slave trade.

In 1710, Christopher Codrington donated a large sum for the college's library. Most of Codrington's wealth came from sugar plantations worked by slaves in the Caribbean. To address the legacy, the college recently created an annual scholarship for students from Caribbean nations. Responding to pressure from Students, it also mounted a plaque outside the library that reads CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Top: A statue of Cecil Rhodes adorns the facade of Oriel College; his munificence is proclaimed in Latin

Above: Tirah Memorial in Bonn Square was Oxford's first war

#### FROM PAGE 26

"In memory of those who worked in slavery on the Codrington Plantations in the West Indies." The plaque wasn't visible during the tour, however, as it sits behind a door often closed to the public.

The group discussed whether the plaque is a sufficient acknowledgment of the past and whether there's good in the fact that students are getting academic opportunities because of money made from their ancestors' suffering.

We stopped in front of the Oxford Union, the storied home of the university's debating society. It's widely seen as a place for Britain's future politicians to practice their debating and campaigning chops. The group also invites people from around the world to speak - they range from actors Ian McKellen and Morgan Freeman to controversial political figures, such as President Donald Trump's erstwhile adviser Stephen Bannon and Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right party. Again the guide posed a question to the group: Is it right to give people a platform to discuss hurtful ideas? Down the road, next to the Tirah war memorial in Bonn Square, we were asked to think about how we as a society remember fallen soldiers.

Next we came to the Bodleian Library, where only men would have studied for many years. Women weren't admitted to the university until 1878, and even then couldn't receive degrees until 1920. The guide asked why women would choose to come to the university if they couldn't receive degrees. One person suggested it could be to make a statement, while another countered that it could be to find a husband. Exchanges of opinion are welcome on the tour - it's part of the "anti-shame and anti-blame" space the directors hoped to create, making room for as many people to share their experiences and thoughts as possible.

"It's uncomfortable for maybe an hour," Larsson said. "Then you're forever more productive in these conversations because you've had them before."

In addition to the "Original Uncomfortable Tour," the company offers walks including "Oxford and Empire," which focuses on how the University of Oxford and the British Empire shaped each other, and "Uncomfortable Literature," which examines authors overshadowed by Oxford literary celebrities such as J.R.R. Tolkien and Lewis Carroll. Both Larsson and Durand plan to graduate from the university this year, and they're looking to expand the tours to other locations in Britain and possibly France. Durand, who is French, is considering an "Uncomfortable Bordeaux.

In the meantime, the group's first planned expansion will be to Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site a short drive from Oxford and the birthplace of Winston Churchill.

"There's lots of uncomfortable things to talk about," Larsson



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## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## **Pacific**





Thunder Gate, left, marks the main entrance to Sensoji. Pins, right, represent one of the many gifts available at shops at Sensoji.

# More than a place to reflect

Find food, gifts at Tokyo's oldest Buddhist temple

By Theron Godbold

mid the bustle of Tokyo and in one of the main districts for tourism you will find Sensoji, the oldest Buddhist temple in the city. Originally completed in the year 645, this bright red compound in old Asakusa lies in the shadow of the Tokyo Skytree and is only a one-minute walk from Asakusa Station.

Steeped in lore, Sensoji's story begins with two brothers fishing in the nearby Sumida River.

In 628, Hinokuma Hamanari and Hinokuma Takenari pulled from the river a statue of Kannon, the bodhisattva, or goddess, of mercy. The brothers tried to return the statue to the waters, but no matter what they did, it always found its way back to them.

With help from the village chief, the brothers built a small shrine that in 20 years grew into the temple, according to the website Asakusastation.com.

Approaching the temple from the Thunder Gate, you will pass under an enormous lantern and then begin the 200-plus-yard walk through Nakamise-dori, or shopping street.

Lining the street leading to the main temple are shops, shops and more shops. Snacks, umbrellas and swords are just some of the items you can find.

A sweet-smelling haze of incense smoke will fill your nostrils as you walk through Hozomon Gate, another large gate with an enormous lan tern, toward the base of the temple and the main temple complex.

To the left you will see the five-story-tall pagoda called Goju-no-to, which was origi-nally built in 942, rebuilt in 1645, destroyed in 1945 during a bombing raid and then finally rebuilt in 1973 with a traditional form but with modern steel and concrete bones, according to Asakusastation.com.

The temple itself, like the rest of the build-

ings, was destroyed in the March 10, 1945, bombing raid of Tokyo and rebuilt during the

The path leading to the steps of Sensoji is flanked by small shops selling temple merchandise like scrolls, incense and fortunes. Passing by the huge incense burner you may

see people wafting smoke around their bodies, a tradition meant to relieve pain or sickness.

Climbing the roughly 20 feet of stairs to the main hall, you can donate to the temple by tossing coins into a trough under another huge lantern, then clap your hands and pray.

Further inside the main temple, the worship area is straight ahead, its ceiling covered in beautiful murals. This is where services take place. There is a large viewing area up front, but visitors normally aren't allowed inside.

godbold.theron@stripes.com Twitter: @GodboldTheron

## ON THE QT

#### DIRECTIONS

Sensoji Temple is a oneminute walk from Asakusa Station, and both the Yamanote and Chuo lines will stop there.

#### TIMES

The main temple is open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## COSTS

Admission is free

#### FOOD

There are many small restaurants and bakeries on the nearby shopping street.

#### INFORMATION

There is no dress code for

— Theron Godbold



Visitors wearing traditional Japanese kimonos walk the grounds of Sensoji, the oldest Buddhist temple in Tokyo.

STARS STRIPES

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## WEEKEND: FOOD

# Spicy Red Shakshuka is delightfully saucy

## Serve with bread on the side to scoop up every last morsel

By BECKY KRYSTAL The Washington Post

ve long been a believer that a good sauce can make a dish. In the case of this Spicy Red Shakshuka, the sauce is the dish.

Sure, there are a half-dozen sunny eggs dolloping the skillet, and the runny yolks are an attraction - but primarily for the way their creamy richness intermingles with the peppy sauce.

In fact, my tasters loved the sauce so much, several, including me, were happy to have an entire bowl of it.

The base is reliable canned crushed tomatoes (swap in diced if you prefer a chunkier sauce or, in the summer, about eight large ripe tomatoes, also diced).

Then the layers of flavor come in: the mellowed pungency of garlic and onion, the kick of harissa and jalapeno and an earthy addition of cumin, paprika and caraway.

It's wonderfully savory - tomato paste helps amplify that umami flavor - but tempered with sweetness and spice.

The recipe comes from Einat Admony, one of our favorite chef-authorities on Israeli food. Shakshuka is closely associated with Israeli cuisine, but this recipe relies heavily on North Africa, which is where the dish likely originated before spreading throughout the Middle Eastern nation

Shakshuka is a welcome addition to the table no matter when you plan to serve it or how many people you plan to serve it to. Along with a little - or a lot of

bread to scoop up that delectable sauce, it makes a fine main course for breakfast, brunch. lunch or dinner.

Or it will play happily on a larger spread with a salad and other bright finger foods, such as crudite, hummus and pickled vegetables. Feel free to vary the number of eggs depending on the size of your meal or crowd, as well your skillet. Speaking of

skillets, you can add this dish to

your one-pan repertoire. Because the sauce is easy to throw together and takes well to storing, you can make a batch at the beginning of the week to save for future meals.

I've already started imagining other ways to use it - as the basis of a soup, thinly spread inside a grilled cheese, even tossed with pasta. I promise you'll find every excuse to eat it, too



Tom McCorkle/The Washington Post

Spicy Red Shakshuka is a delightful blend of sweet, spicy and savory. Serve it with a dense, crusty bread to soak up every bit of the tasty sauce.

#### **SPICY RED SHAKSHUKA**

#### Ingredients

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling 2 medium yellow onions, finely

1 large red bell pepper, cored, seeded and finely diced

1 jalapeno pepper, cored, seeded and sliced

2 tablespoons tomato paste 1 to 2 tablespoons harissa

3 cloves garlic, minced One 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes

2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more as needed

1 teaspoon granulated sugar 1 teaspoon sweet paprika

1 teaspoon ground cumin 1/2 teaspoon ground caraway seed

6 to 8 large eggs

Chopped fresh herbs, such as dill or cilantro, for garnish Crumbled feta, for garnish

(optional)

Challah, pita or crusty bread, for serving

#### Directions

In a large skillet (at least 10 inches) over medium heat, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until soft and translucent, about 6 minutes. Add the bell pepper and jalapeno and cook, stirring occasionally, until just softened, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in the tomato paste, 1 tablespoon harissa and the garlic, and cook, stirring constantly, for an additional 2 minutes

Stir in the crushed tomatoes, salt, sugar, paprika, cumin and caraway. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the heat to low and simmer uncovered until the sauce is thick and shiny, about 20 minutes. It will reduce somewhat, as well. Taste and adjust the seasoning, adding more salt or the remaining harissa, if you like it spicier. Meanwhile, position the rack

in the middle of the oven and preheat to 400 degrees.

Remove the skillet from the heat. Using a large spoon, create little wells in the sauce. Carefully break 1 egg into a cup or ramekin, then slip it into one of the wells; repeat with the remaining eggs. (Cracking the egg into a cup first lets you inspect it for any runaway bits of shell.) Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake for about 12 minutes. until the egg whites are set, but the volks are still a little runny.

Transfer the skillet to the counter and sprinkle with the herbs and feta, if using, Drizzle with more olive oil, to taste. Serve the shakshuka directly from the skillet, with plenty of

Serves 4 to 6





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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## **Pacific**



## Couple who spent 2019 traveling advises how to take the leap

By EMILY GILLESPIE Special to The Washington Post

tranded at the Bolivian border with next to no money, no internet and severe flooding that prevented us from going anywhere, my husband and I took refuge in the only lodging available in the tiny border town: a bunk bed in a cold, leaky cinder-block building behind a family's home.

To warm our bodies and our spirits, we ordered a hot meal and ate dinner alongside a German couple who were also stranded. They shared their wine, and we shared our story about how embarrassingly unprepared we had been to cross from Chile into Bolivia. Without hesitation, they handed us the 150 U.S. dollars we desperately needed for my visa.

The next day, the skies cleared, as did our misfortune. I nearly danced as we crossed into Bolivia. Again without money, we hunkered down on the side of the road, hoping to get a ride with a passing motorist. As if on cue, a scruffy dog curled up at my feet, providing unexpected comfort during the wait. When we were eventually picked up, I left our last bit of food with our new companion.

This travel blunder is one of my fondest memories of the year my husband and I spent traveling the world. These situations — moments when all you can do is laugh and others when you discover the most tender parts of humanity — happened countless times. For me, they're the best part about traveling.

By most standards, what we did is abnormal. Most 30somethings wouldn't quit their jobs (my husband had a full-time position in marketing; I was a freelance journalist with a contract gig) to traipse the globe for a year. But in my opinion, we shouldn't be the exception. It's common for people to make longtime commitments to focus on their education or their careers or their families. For the entirety of 2019, my husband and I focused on our souls, as cheesy as that sounds.

We are food we'd never heard of, explored places we'd seen only on maps and said "why not" to almost every opportunity presented to us. We soaked in every sunset, opted for the scenic route and ordered another round when the conversation was good. We were truly present.

It's an experience I can't recommend enough, and it's not as out of reach as you might think. Once you get over the mental hurdle of doing something society (or maybe just your family) doesn't expect of you, the rest is as easy as getting on a plane.

Some tips for how to make a year of travel happen:





From top: Emily Gillespie and Simon Spencer (not shown) went paragliding over Cape Town, South Africa; Simon Spencer, right, asks about souvenirs made and sold by the Uru people, who live on floating villages near Lake Titicaca, Peru; Atop Mount Killimanjaro in Tanzania.

PHOTOS BY EMILY GILLESPIE/For The Washington Post

#### Saving for the trip

Surprisingly, saving up the funds to travel was the easiest part of our preparations. First, you need a goal a number highly dependent on how and where you plan to travel. After months of research and conversation. we decided on a goal of \$50,000, which would allow a daily travel budget of \$100, with an extra pot of money for some big excursions, like a weeklong safari in Botswana and a multi-day trek to summit Kilimanjaro. That may seem like a small daily budget, but in places such as Peru you can find a dorm bed at a hostel as low as \$3, and in India you can sleep like a king for \$20 a night. It took about four years to meet our goal while maintaining a lifestyle we were still happy with.

I'd recommend setting up an automatic monthly bank transfer to a special account, perhaps one at a different bank. Doing this will force you to take a hard look at your expenses and decide what you are willing to do without. We canceled our cable, ate out less frequently, went to fewer shows and concerts. But we still traveled: We went on several international trips and spent many weekends away with friends.

## Research visas and always bring U.S. cash

While most visas can be figured out as you go, some require advanced planning. For example, to go to Brazil and India, you should apply online about a month in advance, and a visa to visit China has to be secured while you're physically in the United States. Our Bolivia border fiasco taught us one important lesson in traveling: The U.S. dollar is king. We eventually obtained more American currency, as it is required payment for several African visas. Many visas also require passport photos, so bring extras with you.

#### Get your banking in order

While saving for the trip, find a credit card that will earn you the most miles or points per dollar spent. Before we left for our year abroad, we had three credit cards, each loaded with 100,000 miles — enough for three pairs of ocean-hopping plane tickets. Also, set up your money in a bank that has no foreign transaction fees. Much of the world prefers dealing in cash; this way, you won't get gouged with ATM fees.

#### Preparing for departure

Though we saved for about four years, all of the preparation happened in the 12 months before our departure. This made for a pretty complex year, filled with a list of things to do before we hopped aboard our first flight.

#### Decide where to go

For me, saving money sounded difficult but ended up being easy. The opposite was true, however, for deciding where to go. We wanted to see it all! Our budget helped us make some decisions. Because we wanted to keep costs low, we largely skipped Europe, and, though they were high on our wish list, Japan and Australia. Neither of us had been to South America, so we chose to spend our first four months bopping around that continent. Our next stop, we decided, would be Africa: My husband and I met in South Africa in 2009 and hadn't been back since. We planned to start at the tip of the continent and snake our way north before ending our year in Southeast

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

## Weekend: Lifestyle

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Pack light

Packing will depend on your destination. Keep in mind that you can usually find anything you need on the road: We rented sleeping bags for our eight-day trek in Nepal, and I bought a pair of lightweight pants for dressing more conservatively in the predominantly Muslim countries. Items I wouldn't leave home without include a clothes-line, toothbrush cover, external battery and water filter.

The best part of traveling for an extended period is the freedom it allows to stay longer in places you like and get out of Dodge when you're not feeling it. Being flexible will also make it less frustrating when things go sideways. Trust me: You will get sick and be forced to spend a few days lying low.

uays 1 mg low.

I highly recommend buying local SIM cards so you can make any kind of booking on the fly. Having the internet at your fingertips also allows you to download local taxi apps, read restaurant reviews and quickly Google the proper tip for a Kilimanjaro porter. Travel blogs also help.

#### How to re-enter

The best way to help with the return to your "old" life is to have a plan in place before you leave. My husband and I had saved up a cushion for the few months it would take to find work again. We also had made plans to stay with my in-laws when we returned and had left a few boxes of clothes.

#### Be kind to yourself

It takes time to come down from having a fun new place to explore every day and exciting activities forever on the horizon. You won't find work immediately, and you'll have down days when you'll daydream about watching wildlife on an African savanna or scootering from beach to beach on a Greek island. Pick yourself back up by doing things you missed while abroad: Hike your favorite trail, cook up the meal you missed the most or meet a friend for happy hour.

## Don't talk too much about your trip

People will say, "I want to hear about your trip," but the hard truth is that most don't really want to hear too much—less because they don't care than because they don't care than because they can't relate. Even starting off a sentence with "When we were in Turkey ..." can make eyes roll.

#### Be open to change

During your year of Travel, you might learn something surprising about yourself. Maybe you'll realize you're a much happier person in sunny weather or that you can breather more easily in the fresh mountain air of Nepal. My husband and I learned we could be happy many places, but that for now, we wanted to return to the beautiful corner of the world we call home. We do, however, plan to build our lives in a way that allows for more traveling — and more living in the present.

# Saying 'I do' during a pandemic

By Kim Bellware AND LISA BONOS The Washington Post

re-wedding day jitters are common for any couple about to say their I do's, but instead of stressing over weather or seating arrangements, 31-year-old Emily Connolly is contemplating a pandemic.

"I keep waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for people to tell me they have to cancel," Connolly told The Washington Post on March 11 — two days before her Pennsylvania wedding. "Most of our family is not from around here; we do have a lot of people traveling, but not a lot of people flying."

As the new coronavirus officially hit global pandemic status, Connolly and her fiance, Jon, are among the countless brides and grooms in the United States who are figuring out how to adapt the celebration of a major life event—often a carefully planned, emotional and costly affair—as the virus outbreak has started to significantly disrupt daily life

"Everything is staying the same, except I bought two giant bottles of hand sanitizer for the wedding," Connolly said. She has already heard from older relatives in the Seattle area who will have to cancel and said there's a plan to keep people at a safe distance from her grandfather.

Connolly and her fiance may be among the last crop of couples whose nuptials take place before more widespread changes hit the United States' \$78 billion wedding industry.

While changes are inevitable, weddings will still take place — albeit with various modifications, said Susan Cordogan, founder of the Chicago-based event planning company Big City Bride. Cordogan, who has been in the business for decades, has steered couples through events ranging from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to natural disasters to an incident in 2014 in which a man set fire to an air traffic control tower at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, crippling the country's air traffic system.

"Yes, there's going to be fear about it, but there are things you can do to help the situation at your particular event," Cordogan told The Post. "And if it weren't a pandemic, it could be something else. Being flexible will help, knowing the ultimate goal is marrying your love."

#### Keep it local

So far, Cordogan said clients are not canceling weddings, but guests lists are shortening — especially if guests need to hop on a plane and/or book a hotel to attend.

Destination weddings should expect a dramatically reduced guest list. Weddings in which the majority of people can avoid a hotel stay or air travel will have fewer guest list disruptions, Cordovan said, but there are also benefits to locally sourcing attire, food and entertainment

"We're hearing a lot of bridal factories that make wedding dresses in China are getting delayed," Cordogan said, advising to plan well in advance or find local alternatives. To avoid problems with getting attire from China, Candy Borales, a wedding planner in Washington, D.C., strongly suggests buyins a dress or suit off the rack.

#### Should we cancel or postpone?

Depending on how those vendor contracts are written, couples could be on the hook to pay for everything if they try to change a wedding's date. Most industry vendors have dealt with weather issues and government shutdowns. A pandemic is different.

"Most of our contracts, while they cover acts of God, they lack the human element." Borales said. She is advising clients not to cancel because the majority of them would lose the investment they've made. Because many venues in the D.C. area are booked about a year in advance, Borales adds that postponing would likely mean postponing until 2021.

Adam Ezring and Heather Foster, who live in D.C., had planned a May 3 wedding in Italy but are postponing until this summer. "We had some friends propose that we just get married in D.C. and do a one-year anniversary trip to Italy. But we're not ready to give up on our dream wedding yet," Ezring said Wednesday.

Whenever wedding planning stress boils over, Bree Ryback, a day-of wedding coordinator in Washington, reminds couples that they can always go to courthouse and get married. A wedding reception is "a party; you can move parties," she

said, adding that the

District of Columbia

even allows for

riages in which

one partner

officiant. So

even if you

and your

partner

are

acts as the

self-uniting mar-

quarantined, you could still get married
— and celebrate later.

Adam Sontag and his fiancee are in the

Adam Sontag and his hancee are in the process of rescheduling their April 4 wedding in New Jersey. They don't have a new date yet, but Sontag reports that their venue and photographer have already offered to be flexible. "We want to feel good about everyone attending doing so when they also will feel good about it," Sontag wrote in an email, adding that postponing the wedding "relieves some of the incredible stress of this moment as we can now go back to just being worried about this moment, rather than how it will affect our wedding."

#### Find alternatives

Weddings are by definition all about bringing people together, which becomes tricky during a period of social distancing. Cordogan suggested using technology to help include those who can't attend in person.

"We've had the best man read the father's toast, and had the toast live-streamed," Cordogan said of past clients. Virtual guest books and prerecorded speeches can help, too.

When it comes to food and drinks, she advised skipping communal and self-service options like buffets, though the recommended alternatives of individually plated options are more expensive.

"I love a coffee station, but if someone coughs and the creamer is sitting right there, yikes," Cordogan said. "I would have service of all food and beverage items."

#### Insurance

"We always suggest to get insurance," Borales said, which typically runs \$300 to \$600. However, it's unclear whether wedding insurers will cover the costs of events canceled due to the coronavirus. "This is not something any of us have really had an opportunity to work through," she

said.

iStock

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## WEEKEND: MUSIC



# Post-punk, postmodern, progressive

Algiers is a political band in a political time but don't box them in

By ZACHARY LIPEZ Special to The Washington Post

n a cold weekend at the end of November, the four members of the punk band Algiers were holed up in an Atlanta warehouse that was repurposed as an art gallery, performing stripped-down versions of new songs in front of a wall of

TVs featuring the message "BLACK POWER." The band is attempting to avoid being boxed in as a purely political act, with vocalist Franklin Fisher saying, "I can only imagine some people who will not be happy that, you know, the new Algiers record isn't titled 'F Trump 2020."

But even with a splendid collection of love and dread songs and a new insistence on being viewed as "entertainment," Algiers exists in America in 2020. If the personal was ever free of the political, it sure isn't these days. Still, you can't blame

a rock 'n' roll band, especially one with as many progres-

sive dues paid, for trying.

Algiers (named after the 1966 film "The Battle of Algiers") was formed in 2012 in Atlanta and by 2015 released their self-titled debut, which was rich in experimental groove and drenched, lyrically and aesthetically, in far-left signifiers, well before President Donald Trump's election and well before other indie bands discovered that maybe America wasn't all it was cracked up to be. By the time of 2017's "The Underside of Power, Algiers' sound expanded to a cinematic smorgasbord of

mutant disco, post-punk and secular soul.

The band has always had a complicated relationship with its hometown. Three members — guitarist Lee

Tesche, bassist Ryan Mahan and Fisher — were Atlanta churchgoers as boys (Catholic, Southern Baptist and Baptist, respectively), so the somewhat trite "gospel post-punk" descriptor sometimes assigned to them isn't entirely unfair, but, at least initially, the influence of Washington, D.C., punk heroes Fugazi far outweighed anything from Atlanta.

There is pride in the band's birthplace (even a casual conversation with the members will contain references to local heroes like Goodie Mob and the Subsonics, along with elegies for the since transformed and gentrifled neighborhoods of their youth), mixed with the alienation required of a band whose art is based on disquietude. The idea of searching for a home that may never exist, coupled with a fully existential rejection of nationalistic homeland and empire, is readily apparent on "There Is No Year." The album's title is taken from the 2011 avanthorror novel by Blake Butler, an author who was a high school classmate of Mahan and Fisher.

"Frank and I spent a long while talking about the feeling of ambient pain that surrounds the creation of both objects; personally struggling to find a center in a whirlwind." Butler says, "and seeing the same happen to our friends up close in a time where personal pain is always complemented by the public hell ride America has built itself into, especially lately."

Fisher is willfully, if amiably, cagey about the album's meaning. The lyrics, which the band has declined to include on the album or provide to critics, are drawn from the long-form poem "Misophonia" that Fisher had been journaling since the summer of 2018. Using Bob Dylan's "It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)" as a point of departure, Fisher composed "Misophonia" as "little mental Polaroids of everything I was experiencing, whether it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

## WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS



#### Tame Impala

The Slow Rush (Interscope Records)

Time can be a comfort or curse. It can heal, but it can also compress, building pressure that begs for release.

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"The Slow Rush" seems to be just that — a discharge of the creative pressure that was mounting after years of fans questioning, "What will Tame Impala do next?"

The success of the psychedelic rock band's 2015

The success of the psychedelic rock band's 2015
"Currents" allowed them to become one of the defining
rock groups of the last decade. And with this album,
they be delivered once again

they've delivered once again.
"The Slow Rush" can be viewed as an analysis of
time, wrapped up in a wall of electronics, synthesizers
and funk influence that cushion even the most brazen of
questions. Beliefs, grudges, insecurities — how do they
transform? How does one press on past the comforts of
being lost in yesterday?

The album is not only tied by themes of time, but also an overarching feel that singer, writer and producer Kevin Parker is trying to prove something. Whether he's trying to convince someone else or himself is not always clear.

One of the most brilliant songs on the album is "Posthumous Forgiveness." Parker fully confronts the complexity of coping with his father's death, cycling through blame, anger, despair and longing over the course of the 6-minute track

The song builds, like mounting indignation, only to release. A certain somberness is traded for a more hopeful feel as he recounts moments he wishes he could share with his father— "Wanna tell you 'bout my life, Wanna play you all my songs."

The attention to detail on "Posthumous Forgiveness" is mirrored throughout "The Slow Rush." Parker's meticulous tendencies pay off, allowing him to create a thoughtful masterpiece.

- Ragan Clark Associated Press



#### **The Undercover Dream Lovers**

It's All In Your Head (Amplified Media Services)

The Undercover Dream Lovers is a one-man band whose debut album, "It's All In Your Head," is a fun collection of funky songs that leave room for reflection among the merriment and dance beats.

Except for some song writing or production assistance on a few tracks, Matt Koenig takes care of all the rest, including some particularly slinky bass lines and yocals that seems born out of thin air at high altitudes.

Avoiding some of the pitfalls of solo recordings emulating a full band, Koenig's music has a consolidated sound that gives each song a distinct identity while forming a coherent whole.

Opener "A Way Out" has a dance beat that nonetheless feels occasionally restrained, underpinning its slightly disoriented and very wounded sentiments about the end of a relationship. On the other hand, "Soon Enough," co-written with Dent May, is a song of hope, its funky guitar and keyboard sprinkles leading the way forward amidst a process of search and discovery that has been going on far too long.

"Plane Ride" was completed in the wake of a 2019 car accident that took the lives of English-Norwegian rock duo Her's and their four manager while on a tour Koenig was also part of. Its guitar tone seems familiar from some of Her's songs, like the brilliant "What Once Was." It's a subtle and classy tribute.

In an age where most sounds are available at the touch of a button, it's the songwriting that makes the difference on "It's All In Your Head," which portends a future for The Undercover Dream Lovers that is as bright as the album's grooves.

Pablo Gorondi
 Associated Press



#### **Eric Johnson**

EJ Vol. II (Vortexan Music)

Eric Johnson's new album shows the amazing Texas guitar wizard moving another mystifying step closer to a singer-songwriter role.

Nine of the 13 tracks on "EJ Vol. II" are mostly sung ballads, some featuring a string quartet. A few of the songs have memorable melodies and gorgeous guitar solos, but they pale in comparison to the purely instrumental tunes showcasing Johnson's fluid chops and exciting musicianship.

Among the vocal tunes, "Different Folks" is one of the best, with a trademark electric guitar tone and lyrical solo as Johnson expresses his heartfelt thoughts in a manner similar to John Lennon's "In My Life."

"Divanae," about a struggling painter and his model around the time of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, also hits the spot, while it's the instrumental break on "Let a Friend Find You," led by a gentle acoustic guitar and an aching lap steel, that is its most beautiful section.

A fine take on Bert Jansch's arrangement of the traditional "Black Waterside" leaves off the vocals, sparing you the specifics about its tale of deception and cruelty, but the music's interpretation is clear.

"Charldron's Boat" takes a breathless trip down the rapids and "Lake Travis" is a short but excellent acoustic guitar showcase. The also brief "For the Stars" ends the album on another touching note, as Johnson's piano and guitar beautifully reflect thoughts and feelings about the loss of his mother.

"For the Stars" is also an excellent example of what makes Johnson's insistence on so many vocal performances so baffling, as his guitar playing is loaded with an abundance of emotion and sensitivity that only the best singers can hooe to emulate.

Pablo Gorondi
 Associated Press

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international news or personal relationships or things I experienced on the road or things that my friends or family were going through."

The lyrical result is an imagery-rich, haunted, occasionally bitter tapestry presented as autobiography. In its quality and content, the poem, inscribed on the album's cover in lieu of a lyric sheet insert, begs for analysis that the band refuses. "It think too often, specifically with us, people expect things to be either autobiographical or very one-dimensional and myopic in terms of worldview or some sort of agenda that we're pushing." Fisher says. "I'm not a soapbox preacher, you know?"

Algiers isn't shy about its embrace of high-minded modernism backed by the force of any and all of the music they love, be it '80s hardcore thuggery or the roller-rink romance sounds of Miami freestyle. "There Is No Year," as purposefully produced by Randall Dunn and Ben Greenberg, is a far more streamlined affair than its previous outing, and it came from the band's disavowal, in typical ornery fashion, of even their own preconceptions. Fisher recalls a band meeting toward the end of 2018 when Tesche asked his bandmates to envision their upcoming album. "Got it? Okt. Throw that out, because it's not gonna be that record," Fisher recalls him saying.

The final product proved to be divisive—with listeners and even within the band—but it shows a band whose primary interest is continuing its evolution and refusing to rest on its laurels. The soul claps are still there, synths and metal scrapes still creep in and out seemingly of



their own volition, but the band has never sounded so cohesive or modern. They've even evolved in how they look onstage — whereas they used to dress as monochrome Maoists, now there are headbands and fake-fur jackets. They've gone from the Clash to, well, Big Audio Dynamite.

One element that remains at the heart of Algiers is a series of inherent contradictions that the band, like all the best philosophy-minded but reality-grounded artists, embrace. They all insist on calling Algiers "entertainment" while talking in full essays about postmodernism and state oppression. They all agreed that the album was going to showcase Fisher's talent and voice, but that this needed to be done despite Fisher's palpable contempt for the idea of a flashy rock 'n' roll frontman.

And where would the comfort needed to provide for the strength of his performance, this litany of end-time visions and heartache, come from? From the primal need for a place to call one's own. Drummer Matt Tong, having made his bones touring the world with the indie band Bloc Party, is now an English expat happily living with his family in New York. Tesche is operating as a fixer of sorts within the Atlanta rock scene and is finally comfortable back where he came from. Mahan,

arguably the most ambivalent and inward of the group and with a southern accent unsullied by years living and working in the U.K., doesn't claim any home at all.

And Fisher sees New York City as the place he's meant to be. This acknowledgment was a pivotal feature in the recording of "There Is No Year." He had been living in New York for years but with no apartment to call his own because of the demands of the band. In one of those unfortunate ironies of being a leftist artist trying to work in a gentrified city, he ended up landing in an Airbnb in Bed-Stuy. "I was in New York City. New York City is kind of a Mecca for black people. For hip-hop, for jazz, for poetry, like the Harlem Renaissance; everything came from New York, and the place I was staying was only a few blocks away from .. Fisher pauses. "There's a YouTube video of Biggie Smalls when he was like 17, and he's rapping outside of this bodega, and I was a few blocks away from that spot, you know what I'm saying? I didn't feel displaced for the first time. I was home."

It's this inescapable brawl of ideas and ideals, needs and resentments that define Algiers. They want to make art; they want to entertain. They want to have homes just so they can leave them for months at a time. They are a racially mixed, mixednationality band, originally from the South. They are an openly leftist band in Trump's America in 2020 who are tired of being forced to offer prescriptions for an entire history of oppression. So they're writing love songs. Or they're writing political songs couched in the language of love. Or they're writing songs for the apocalypse, with a dash of liberation. And a little piano to make it all go down easier.

## Weekend: Books

# In 'Night Watchman,' tribal, personal history converge

By Laurie Hertzel Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

loward the end of Louise Erdrich's new novel, a character named Thomas Wazhashk heads to Washington, D.C., to testify against a bill. If it passes, its policies would eliminate all federal services to Indians, move families off their reservations and almost certainly destroy the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota.

And yet before heading home, Thomas stops at the office of the bill's author to thank him for listening to his testimony. The senator was stunned. Nobody had ever done this before.

"This really happened," Erdrich said. "My grandfather" - Aunishenaubay Patrick Gourneau, on whom the character of Thomas is closely based was the most kind person. He had the sort of quality that you don't really run into in politics very often, that sort of gentility. And he had incredibly good manners

"The Night Watchman" is set in Turtle Mountain in the 1950s, a time when the U.S. government planned to "emancipate" Indians, band by band and tribe by tribe, from their Indianness, Terminate their protected status guaranteed in treaties, end their government health care and education, abolish tribes, relocate them from reservations to cities, stop any kind of aid or payments for taking their land. Two dozen of the 113 tribes this happened to

became extinct, Erdrich notes. The Turtle Mountain Band, thanks to the incredible efforts of her grandfather and others, did not. Those good manners, that gentility, Erdrich said,

"I think really won the day for them." Erdrich, 65, grew up knowing that her grandfa-

ther had been involved in preventing termination, but for a long time she didn't have a strong understanding of what that meant. Then Patrick Gourneau was inducted postbu-

mously into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor, and she began to realize more fully the role he had played in saving the band. "I thought, this is extraordinary," she said. "I couldn't stop thinking about what he had done."

For years, she had read and reread her grandfather's beautiful letters — handwritten to her parents in elegant boarding school script, packed with news and stories and laced with great humor. But after the Hall of Honor ceremony in 2018, she put the letters in chronological order against the timeline of the termination attempt, and suddenly the magnitude of what the government had planned to do, and what her grandfather had done to stop them became clear

Erdrich had been struggling to write another novel, reaching that familiar stage where she was pretty sure that she had no more books in her. But as she looked at her grandfather's letters, "All of a sudden it was: Ah, I'd been working on this book all along.

Brenda Child, a historian for the University of Minnesota and a Red Lake Ojibwe, said she was thrilled that Erdrich was writing about the termination era. "She has such a wonderful sense of history in her work," Child said. "She makes termination into a wonderful, human story so you can see what stakes Native people had - what they were trying to protect.

Even more remarkable, Child said, is the family connection to the history. "Her grandfather was a fantastic letter writer. ... To have family documentation of these experiences is quite a rare thing."

Still, writing about real people — let alone a be-loved family member — was difficult, Erdrich said. While the character of Thomas is based on her grandfather (a factory watchman himself), he is

not her grandfather "I tried as much as possible to fictionalize him. It's a hard edge for me to stand on, having a real person that I was basing a character on. I never do that if I can help it."

Several other real people, including Arthur V. Watkins, the Utah senator behind the termination bills, appear in the book, though briefly.

"I don't know how people write about real people," Erdrich said. "If you can't find a direct quote of them saying what you want them to say, how do you put words in their mouth?"

Almost all of Watkins' quotes in her novel are verbatim, taken from the Congressional Record. And lest this make the book sound dry or scholarly (it is neither), just take a look at page 397 where Erdrich announces the

upcoming congressional hearing. In addition to Thomas, she writes, speakers will include "a ghost, a PhD candidate, and a stenographer.'

Wait, what — a ghost? As in previous Erdrich books, the past and the present and the dead and the living all swim together. Early in the novel, as Thomas tries not to fall asleep on his overnight watch, he sees what appears to be a young boy



sitting on top of a band saw.

This detail came from one of her grandfather's letters. Gourneau worked all night at the factory, and he worked all day on tribal business. He slept, Erdrich said, only about 12 hours a week.

In one letter, "He says that he got very exhausted one night and his head dropped and he dropped his sandwich on the floor and he thought he saw a little boy. That's how exhausted he was," she said. "And I kept going with the little boy. Imagined who he was." He became a character, the ghost of a child she named Roderick who follows Thomas to Washington.

For years, Erdrich has researched Native history, driving down to Kansas City, Mo., in the summers with Child to pore through tribal documents at the National Archives there. "I love doing research," Erdrich said. "It's my candy — it really is. I feel guilty because I'm not actually writing, I'm just taking notes."

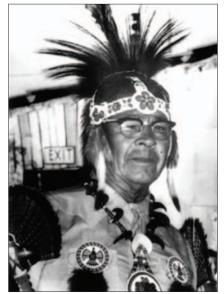
Those archives produced a wealth of material, including her grandfather's boarding school files and dozens of his letters.

For scenes in "The Night Watchman" that were

set in 1950s Minneapolis, Erdrich worked at the Minnesota Historical Society, reading about flophouses and dive bars and a guy known as the King of Skid Row

It was all fascinating, "like a fever dream," she said. "I thought, this could take over." But it didn't. She chased down obscure bits of information such as the chemicals used in mimeograph copy fluid, and the kind of our Puerto Rican nationalist Lolita Lebron fired into the air at the U.S. Capitol in 1954. Candy or not, it wasn't empty calories; it all ended

'The Night Watchman" is a blend of truth and fiction, real people and real events matched up with make-believe. The boxing match that Thomas organizes to raise money for the trip to Washington? True. The creepy Minneapolis bar where Pixie Paranteau gets a job playing a coy Babe the Blue Ox frolicking in a tank of water? Based on truth, but different. The Babe the Blue Ox suit that Pixie wore, made of specialized rubber that came all the way from Chicago? Fully a product of Erdrich's rich imagination.



#### The Night Watchman

Louise Erdrich

NIGHT

"The Night Watchman" is set in the early 1950s on the home reservation of Louise Erdrich's mother's family, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota.

One of the book's major plotlines is based on the life and letters of Erdrich's maternal grandfather, Aunishenaubay Patrick Gourneau. Like Gourneau, the fictional

Thomas Wazhashk, the night watchman of the title, is a member of the tribal advisory council for the Turtle Mountain Band. Wazhashk is deeply devoted to his fam-

ily and community. Between his rounds as watchman at the new jewel bearing plant that provides the town's best-paying jobs, he writes countless letters, official and personal.

Then one day in 1953 comes news of a "tribal emancipation" bill in the U.S. Congress. Wazhashk's careful reading reveals

that emancipation really means termination — if the real-life bill becomes law, the Chippewa will cease to exist as a legal entity, losing their land and the few intact protections provided them in treaties "that were promised to last forever. So as usual. by getting rid of us, the Indian problem would be solved.

The other major story that structures "The Night Watchman" is that of Patrice Paranteau. Just out of high school and holding down a good job at the jewel bearing plant, Patrice is deter-mined to change her family's life for the better.

Everyone on the reservation lives in some degree of poverty, but the Paranteau house, miles from the nearest highway, is worse than most. The family's best times are when Patrice's hopeless drunk of a father goes off on a bender for months at a time. (Thomas, her uncle, is the positive father figure in her life.)

Patrice loves and admires her strong, wise mother, Zhaanat, but she has no intention of sharing her fate of marrying young and having children.

Patrice's older sister, Vera, is missing. She signed up for a government program that relocates tribal members to cities, ostensibly for good jobs. But, as Patrice discovers when she takes the long bus trip to "the Cities" (Minneapolis-St.Paul) to try to find Vera, it sometimes funnels naive young women from the reservations right into the grip of sex traffickers. Patrice will barely escape them herself, coming home without Vera but bringing Vera's infant son back to the family.

Erdrich skillfully weaves together the stories of Thomas and Patrice as both of them prepare to travel to Washington, D.C., to testify before a congressional panel about the emancipation bill. It will be a life-changing trip for both of them

- Colette Bancroft/Tampa Bay (Fla.) Times

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES





Defy your own mortality and unleash your inner darkness across the violent feudal land of Sengoku-era Japan and the deadly Dark Realm in Nioh 2.

Sony Interactive Entertainment photos

By NIC REUBEN Special to The Washington Post

Don't imitate me it's as boring as the two halves of a melon.

o the Haiku poet Matsu Basho, symmetry was deeply uninspiring. Why limit yourself to forms of expression already dreamed up by another? - which draws from the same well of Zen imagery as many of Basho's poems — released in 2017, it featured an undeniable symmetry with the design trends popularized by the first two Dark Souls games. Stamina-based combat. Relentless, deadly foes. Unforgiving environments.

But to call it a reflection of Dark Souls wouldn't be entirely accurate. Inspired by Ninja Gaiden and Onimusha, Nioh's combat was far more expansive, with a higher skillceiling but much more flexibility. This depth is even more pronounced in the sequel, and as a result, Nioh 2 is a hard sell to anyone who doesn't have the time to dedicate themselves. Its unforgiving combat, byzantine equipment system and systems-heavy character customization are both its greatest assets and the biggest barriers to entry for anyone who just wants to hit a monkey demon with a sword for

an hour or so. Which is, I think, most of us. There's plenty on the other side of that barrier for which it's worth crossing. In many cases, Nioh 2's foes need to be as smart and relentless as they are simply to give the player a reason to utilize all their options. Each of Nioh 2's nine weapons has three stances — fighting styles you can switch between — each with their own pace, strengths, weaknesses and combos. Each of these three stances has options to flow into the other, offering yet more approaches. The thrill of outsmarting, outmaneuvering and ultimately eviscerating worthy and dangerous foes is

The sequel's newest addition to the tense, parry-and-counter, stamina-based combat is the option to collect the souls of slain Yokai. supernatural folkloric beings, and use their abilities to turn the tide of battle. You can briefly transform into a giant gorilla, somersault into the air to avoid an incoming attack, and follow up with a throwing spear. Or, close the distance by metamorphosing into a spectral ogre and pummeling your opponent with your gigantic fists. These abilities add variety and visual flair to fights.

one of the game's big triumphs.

Nioh 2 cleverly fictionalizes historical events as though recorded history was filled with mistranslation, amalgamating myth and legend. Your customized demon hunter takes

of your Yokai foes, environments can feel oppressively bleak sometimes. To balance this, Nioh 2 introduces a touch of Ghibli-esque whimsy. Adorable Kodama spirits are hidden around each level as collectibles, inviting you to seek them out for helpful bonuses. Follow the sound of mewing, and you might find a saucer-eyed, chubby cat called a Scampuss, who'll follow you around and help in combat. These touches, along with a more hopeful tone in many of the story cutscenes, are a welcome reprieve from the darkness while you steel yourself to plunge back in, katana-first

A perhaps less-welcome reprieve is the amount of time you'll spend going through menus. Over the course of a level, you Hoover up tiered equipment like in an MMORPG a lot of it identical to weaponry and armor you already own. Most of this will end up being donated at shrines for a resource you can spend on healing items and ammuni-tion, or used at a blacksmith you can access between missions. Along with experience points, and separate skill trees for Ninjitsu abilities like throwing stars and elemental weapon buffs, the options for optimization can become overwhelming.

Fighting is still what you'll spend most of your time doing, though. When things go well, combat feels incredibly weighty, responsive and fluid, discouraging button-mashing in favor of a measured approach that still manages to evoke a martial arts movie power fantasy. And an intuitive three-player co-op option transforms Nioh 2 from a cautious, deliberate gantlet into a riotous hack and slash.

As a devotee of Dark Souls, Bloodborne and Sekiro, though, I wonder if Nioh 2 has learned some of the wrong lessons from FromSoft's oeuvre. Souls director Hidetaka Miyazaki is always eager to move away from discussions of his work's infamous difficulty in interviews Nioh 2's producer, Fumihiko Yasuda, has unabashedly referred to Nioh 2 as a "Masocore' game, and the game's often gleefully punishing design supports this. Enemies that appear from nowhere, attacking immediately, can often feel sadistic for sadism's sake thing the Souls games rarely lean into. It's never enough to completely sour how enjoy-able combat is, but it does often feel like an overzealous, rather than thoughtful, application of difficulty.

Despite this, Nioh 2 is still one of the most accomplished and polished games to be a bit like Dark Souls since everything became a bit like Dark Souls

Platforms: PlayStation 4 Online: teamninja-studio.com/nioh



## WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Unleash your inner napper

Follow these tips to fall asleep faster, awake more refreshed

> By Erica Pearson Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

nergyPod activated. Enjoy your Metro-Nap," said a soft voice from the speaker. As the chair's leg rest rose, I settled back to the relaxing sounds of waves and synthesizer melodies and closed my eyes beneath the dome-like shield.

I almost forgot that I was in downtown Minneapolis

– and in the middle of a workday.

A place to power nap is becoming an office wellness amenity, as employers begin to see sleeping on the job

as a way to boost productivity, not a sign of laziness.

As part of a recent renovation, Fifth Street Towers
added two MetroNaps EnergyPods (chairs designed
for workplace napping) to their tenant amenity center.
The pods gently wake you with soft light and vibrations

"They're rarely empty," said Reed Christianson, a principal with Transwestern, the building's leasing team.

Power naps — whether at your desk or in a fancy pod — are just one of the most popular sleep hacks that local experts suggest. This week, our Snooze Goal is to try at least one of these suggestions, and hack our way to better sleep. Your sleep diary will give you clues about which hacks might be best suited to your natural sleep schedule and lifestyle.

Here are four ways to boost sleep and be better rested:

#### Power nap

This works best for folks who want to stay up a little later and get an energy boost without relying on caf-

Humans are "natural nappers," who typically feel a lull in the afternoon, said Dr. Michael Howell, a sleep medicine doctor and associate neurology professor at the University of Minnesota. Taking a 10- to 20-minute nap or a longer 90-minute snooze can make for a more productive afternoon and evening, he said.

A nap isn't necessarily a good idea for someone who struggles to fall asleep at bedtime, he said. But for the rest of us, even those who think they are incapable of napping it's worth a try.

napping, it's worth a try.
"Napping takes practice," said Howell. "Recognize that most people, when they start napping, aren't any good at it."

First, identify when your natural napping time is.
"If you go to bed at 10 p.m. and wake up at 6 a.m.,
what's the midpoint of that? It's about 2 a.m. That
means that your natural naptime is 2 o'clock in the
afternoon Exactly 12 hours anart." Howell said

afternoon. Exactly 12 hours apart," Howell said.

Another way to find your ideal naptime, he suggested,



Once you have the timing down, seek out a place that's comfortable, cool and quiet.

We sleep in 90-minute cycles, passing through different stages — drifting off, light sleep, deep sleep and REM sleep. If you don't have time to nap for a full 90 minutes, it's better to try a shorter 10- to 20-minute power nap, Howell said. That's because trying to wake from a deep sleep can leave you groggier than when you began.

To nap, he suggests you sit down, close your eyes and drop your head. Don't use a blanket for a short nap, because your body's drop in temperature during sleep will help you wake up naturally.

"If you can fall asleep, great, but if not, don't worry about it. Just keep plugging away at it like you're practicing the piano or trying to hit a golf ball," Howell said.

#### Therapy light

This hack is for those who struggle through groggy mornings, especially natural night owls who have to wake up early, said Howell.

wake up early, said Howell.

"Focus on doing the right thing in the morning to pay it forward to yourself, so it's easier to fall asleep tomorrow night," Howell said.

He suggests spending about a half-hour in front of a 10,000-lux lamp soon after rising. It provides your body with artificial sunlight, which helps you wake up and shifts your circadian rhythm earlier. (Real sunlight works, too, of course, but it tends to be in short supply at this time of year.)

For more extreme night owls (those who have trouble getting to sleep at night and would sleep in by four to six hours on the weekend), he recommends combining the morning light with a very small dose (one milligram) of melatonin in the evening.

"You can take melatonin not just to help fall asleep but actually to help wake up in the morning. You're pulling your circadian rhythm earlier," he said. "That's what you're doing. Don't think of it as a sleeping pill.

"Let's say you are a person who would like to sleep in until noon, but have to wake up at 7. So you're using the



#### Meditation

This can make it easier to wind down and quiet your brain at bedtime. But it also can help boost sleep quality, which is why both Twin Cities wellness coach Amy Mattila and M Health Fairview pulmonologist and sleep expert Dr. Conrad Iber recommend it.

"Meditation can help you to start to tell the nervous system it's time to relax and to unwind," said Mattila.

You can practice on your own, or using a meditation app like Calm or Headspace. Iber also suggested searching for sleep meditations on YouTube and listening to the audio only. Meditation during the day can also help with sleep.

Meditation during the day can also help with sleep, A recent Dutch study found that two weeks of listening to short audio meditations (spending 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes after work) improved both the quality and quantity of sleep.

The researchers focused on four specific mindfulness exercises that aid in sleep:

- Focusing attention on the breath.
- Doing a body scan, where you focus attention on different parts of the body.
- Mindfully focusing on an everyday task such as brushing your teeth or drinking tea.
- A loving kindness practice, in which you send feelings of compassion to yourself and others.

#### **Gratitude affirmations**

This hack is for sleepers who have trouble calming their mind, either when trying to fall asleep at bedtime or when they awake in the middle of the night, said Sleep Health Specialists' Sarah Moe.

"Right before bed, say out loud, audibly, three things that you hope to accomplish the next day, and three things that you are grateful for," said Moe. "When you hear those things, it not only releases some worry for the next day, but also the gratitude portion releases a relaxing and calming hormone that helps initiate sleep."

Anapping takes practice. Recognize that most people, when they start napping, aren't any good at it. Dr. Michael Howell

# Weekend: Family



While schools are closed because of the coronavirus, maintaining a schedule and regular routine will help your children transition back into school when the time comes.

# Stuck at home

# What parents should know about play dates, education during the coronavirus outbreak

By Amy Joyce and Mari-Jane Williams The Washington Post

you're feeling a little overwhelmed and struggling to keep up with the ever-growing list of cancellations, closures and other news surrounding COVID-19, we feel you. Many kids are out of school, many parents are working from home (or at least trying to, because kids are out of school), and we're all trying to stay clean and keep calm.

It's a lot, so we put together some of the many questions parents are asking. Settle in, parents, because it's looking like life, at least for the immediate future, is going to be anything but usual

#### School's out for - who knows how long? How are we supposed to help them learn?

If you are like many parents, you found out recently that your kids will be on an unexpected, extended break. Wondering what this will mean for their learning? Will this be a bit of a miniature summer slide Should you give them homework? Even if the schools provide online learning options, will you be able to wrangle them to the computer each day (if you even have a computer)?

Melanie Auerbach, the director of student support at the Sheridan School in Washington, D.C., has some ideas about how to keep the kids on track during the hiatus. Her main advice? Make a schedule and stick to it.

"Summer brain is a lack of a schedule, a routine, sleep," Auerbach says. "They don't forget how to read. ... They've forgotten how to do school. After winter break, when kids come back, they need a week to reset. After daylight saving time,

they need a week to reset. A change in their regular routine makes a big difference

So although it is important to keep up with any work your child's school has sent home for the break, either online or on paper, it's even more important to try to keep them on a routine. Have them get up at the same time Monday through Friday, Auerbach says, and keep a reason-able bedtime. And although many

Summer brain is a lack of a schedule, a routine, sleep. They don't forget how to read. ... They've forgotten how to do school."

> Melanie Auerbach Director of student support at the Sheridan School

kids will need to spend some time on screens to complete their work, try to limit exposure where you can. In terms of learning, Auerbach

suggests finding ways to make it fun. Let your children teach you a skill they have been working on, or look for games or other hands-on activities to break up the online learning or worksheets. Have them play and then write a story about what they did, or create a store in your kitchen or do a cooking activity to work on math skills.

Can they have play dates?

In the case of the coronavirus, kids have mostly been carriers, either asymptomatic or showing only very slight (cold-like) symptoms.

But they can pass this virus on to grown-ups easily.

For Maha Mahdavinia, a physician in allergy and immunology at Rush University Medical Center, this probably means no more play dates for her 9-year-old and 6-yearold, who won't be in school. She had been considering letting them have up to three friends at a time in the house, but after watching things unfold in Italy, and now that she has a positive case in her ICU, she is leaning against it. "It's a disaster, and children are in the mode of transferring it now."

Outdoor activities where there isn't much shared equipment or contact should be fine, like riding bikes, she said. Playground equip ment, which are being touched by children who may not have the best hygiene, should be avoided. The key right now is to slow

the spread of the coronavirus. As parents, if we don't take it seriously and curb face-to-face interaction, we defeat the purpose of closing schools and workplaces.

#### So, how do we entertain kids as we're trying to stay away from others?

This may not be the time to ban screen time. But you can set it up in a way so kids won't get completely sucked in. "Routines will help to avoid power struggles,' says Devorah Heitner, author of "Screenwise." "Collaborate with kids to think about the best uses of tech during this unusual time in all of our lives. Is this a good time to download a new game? Learn a new skill together on YouTube? FaceTiming, texting, gaming with friends and social media will help keep kids connected to the friends they would usually be seeing."

# THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



# The naked truth about springtime

hat's the true sign that spring has sprung? No, it's not the crocuses, the bunnies or the pussy willows I know spring is here, because I just

shaved my knees.
You might be thinking, "Well, that's an inappropriate way to start a column." Stick with me — you'll soon realize that news of my recent knee-shaving is actually the perfect launching point for a deeply philosophical

You see, knee-shaving is not a regular occurrence in my life. In fact, from October through February, the prickly hairs on my knees remain completely undis turbed. As long as we're being brutally honest, I'll admit that during mid-winter, I don't even shave my legs. Only armpits and ankles, until daylight saving time, when the razor creeps up to my knees.

"Thanks for sharing," you're probably saying, "but what's so philosophical about your personal hygiene

Listen folks, this isn't about hairy knees. It's about societal norms, bodily exposure, natural inhibitions, the ever-changing definition of modesty, and the pressure to conform to modern trends.

Ever since the founding of this great nation, America has valued freedom above all else. More than any other country on Earth, we protect individual liberties that we feel are our inalienable rights as human beings.

But in today's modern culture, the need to escape confining norms, no matter how practical or reasonable, has reached new extremes. The most obvious expression of our human drive to break free from conventions is our clothing.

Or the lack of it, to be more precise. Ever since 1920s flappers shocked their Victorian mothers by wearing hemlines above their ankles, exposure has been trendy. As the decades passed, that itsy-bitsy teeny-weeny yellow polka-dot bikini got smaller and smaller. Today, a perfectly acceptable bathing suit consists of about six square inches of Spandex and a few

Modesty, which used to be a widely-recognized virtue. is now seen as puritanical, frumpy, and frankly uncool, while nudity is very on-trend.

Pop culture reflected this shift a few years ago, when nudity-themed shows such as "Dating Naked," "Naked and Afraid," "Naked Castaways" and "Buying Naked" appeared on television. More recently, premium chan-nel shows like "Westworld," "Shameless" and "Game of Thrones" are ranked from "least naked" to "most naked" for your viewing pleasure. How convenient!

We're all born naked, you might be thinking, so what's the big deal? Certainly, shedding one's clothing should not be seen as the scourge of humankind. Anyone who has ever seen a toddler rip his or her own diaper off and run buck naked through the house giggling knows that, on some level, nudity is a liberating natural inclination.

I've always been unusually modest, even during my swim team years, when I had to shower with 20 other females on a daily basis. I kept myself covered whenever possible, but my teammates' attitudes ran the gamut, including one swimmer whom we lovingly nicknamed "Flesh" because her last name was Gordon and she would strip down to her birthday suit as soon as we set foot in the locker room.

So what am I saying?

In all my old-fashioned modesty, I have ironically become the ultimate non-conformist in today's bare-itall society. I shave and bare my knees each spring, but you won't see me wearing a crop top and Daisy Dukes just because the bees are buzzing. The sun can shine all it wants, but I don't wear spaghetti straps, plunging necklines or miniskirts. And no matter how hot it gets, I won't squeeze my 53-year-old-mother-of-three frame into a string bikini

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

95 Way of securing

paymen

96 Fizzy drinks

98 Knitting stitch

99 "Holy !"

#### NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

#### WHAT'S SHAKING?

BY LAURA TAYLOR KINNEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Laura Taylor Kinnel of Newtown, Pa., teaches math and is the director of studies at a Friends boarding school ness Phaladelphia. She has been solving crosswords since childhood but laut started constructing them a filt for y A cousin who solved a 2018 Christmas puzzle of Laura's encouraged her to make more. She was pleasantly surplicationer affect the phaladelphia child no new puzzle makers. This is her second Times crossword, both Sundays.—

#### ACROSS 1 Boasts

- 6 Longtime anthropomorphic aardvark on PBS
- 12 Australia's national women's basketball team
- 17 Sounds "everywhere." in a children's song
- 18 Gloomy
- 19 Soup server
- 20 Add insult to injury
- 22 "Whenever I want you, all I have to do" is this, in an Everly
- 23 Farming prefix 24 "Gracias a \_\_\_\_\_
- 25 Jam producer
- 27 Jack Frost's bite
- 29 Bits of terre in la mer 30 Churns
- 32 Author Harper
- 33 He loved Lucy
- 35 Tea type
- 36 "A Life for the (Mikhail Glinka opera)
- 38 1940s vice president
- become president 39 "In Praise of Folly"
- 41 How to take glib
- promises
- 44 Dog/dog separator

- 45 Subject of many a negotiation
- 46 Days\_\_\_ 47 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.: Abbr
- 48 Enlivens 52 Big feller? 53 Fails to be
- 54 City on the Brazos River
- 55 Propeller blades? 57 Crunch
- 59 Gobs 64 Item often numbered
- from 3 to 9 65 Roardwalk buy
- 68 Gush 69 Time magazine's
  - Person of the Century runner-up, 1999
- 71 Strain 72 \_\_\_\_ Westover, author of the 2018
- best-selling memoir "Educated" 73 Big name in theaters
- 74 Till compartment 76 "Silent Spring"
- subject, for short 78 Nothingburger 80 Descartes's
  - conclusion
- 83 Energy 84 Least interesting
- 86 It gets the ball rolling
- 87 2002 Winter Olympics locale
- 90 Looks through 94 Abdominal-pain producer
- 4 Appurtenance for a T.S.A. agent
- pieces 6 Big 12 college town

- become astronauts 100 Word after bargain 11 Warning sign or overhead 12 Blast from the past 101 Emulated a kitten
- 102 \_\_\_\_ expense (free) 103 Org. with the slogan "Every child. One
- voice. 104 Brand with the slogan "The Art of
- Childhood" 107 What flies usually
- become 109 Wimp
- 110 It's held by a winner 112 You, according to Jesus in Matthew
- 5:13 115 Follow
- 116 Reflexive pronoun 117 Fishes
- 118 Moved like Jagr? 119 Shaded growths
- 120 Lil Nas X and Billie Eilish to teenagers

# DOWN

- 1 Orlando . two-time Gold Glove Award
- 2 Almost won 3 Martial artist's belt
- 5 Many Dorothy Parker

- 7 Column crosser 8 Brings (out)
- 9 Time of day 10 Sch. with 50+ alums who went on to
- 13 Setting for a classic Georges Seurat painting, en
- français 14 Fruity quaff
- 15 South American cowbovs
- 16 Like Havarti or Muenster
- 17 Reveille player 20 Jack up
- 21 Repeated part of a pop song 26 Kind of wheel
- 28 Peak 31 Heroine of Bizet's
- "The Pearl Fishers'
- 35 Shows how it's done 36 Climate change.
- notably 37 State
- 38 Refried bean
- of the space shuttle Endeavour
- couple

- 33 Cozy spot
- 40 Astronaut Iemison
- 42 Reduction in what one
- 43 Headaches 45 Nursery-rhyme
- 48 Gulp
- 49 Prefix with medic or military

- 50 Princess Diana, for 67 Opposite of "to"
- 51 Negotiator with G.M. 53 Suckling
- 56 Disco
- character) 58 Memorized
- 60 Exasperate 61 Fabric with sheen 62 Actress \_\_\_\_ Rachel
- 63 Potential source of a political scandal
- 70 Behave like a
- helicopter parent 75 Attendant of
- Desdemona in "Othello"
- 77 Lightly roast 79 Continental abbr
- 80 Clustered
- 81 Meted out 82 Best-actress Oscar
- winner between Streep and Field
- 85 Attention seekers 88 Critical
- 89 Fictional exemplar of Christmas spirit 90 Stir-fried noodle dish 91 Sews up
- 92 Senator Joni and Dadaist Max
- 93 What water in a bucket might do

84 Agent of change

- 97 Source of the line 'Man does not live by bread alone": Abbr.
- 101 Handcuffs 104 This, for one
- 105 "\_\_\_\_ be in England"
- 106 Not so much
- 111"Tut-tut"
- 113 Argentina's leading
- daily sports newspaper
- 114 Super ending

# RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE







"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.



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You rely on your military community when you're far from home.

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# Face masks signal: Don't come near me

By NOAH SMITH Bloomberg Opinion

ne of the curious little mysteries of the coronavirus pandemic is why Japan's cases have increased so slowly. The country hasn't implemented the widespread testing of South Korea or the draconian lockdown of China. Yet the epidemic has spread only slowly there; the country has fewer than 1.000 cases as of this writing, lower than tiny Denmark with less than a 20th of the population. Some have suggested that Japan has a large number of undetected cases, but given the country's vulnerable elderly population the hospitals should be flooded with patients if this were true.

So what is Japan doing right? One possibility is that Japan's early move to close schools was a lucky success and that schools are the most important way the virus is spread. But another possibility is that Japan is simply very good at social distancing - avoiding groups of people and keeping physical distance from strangers. Despite living in densely urbanized areas, Japan is famous for social isolation. Relatively few young people live with roommates. The country's culture is geared around maintaining personal space whenever possible; greetings, for example, are done by bowing instead of shaking hands.

Also, many people wear surgical masks. Usually this is done by those with colds or flu, to prevent others from getting sick. A mask can block someone from exhaling infectious droplets. But perhaps more importantly, it can signal other people to keep their distance.

When most people use the word "signaling," they just mean any sort of communication. It's possible that wearing a mask could simply be an easy way of telling other people "I'm sick, stay away." A mask could also be used to send a false message,



A man with a face mask walks on a bridge in Tokyo last week, Japan's culture is geared around maintaining personal space whenever possible.

if people without symptoms simply want to ensure that others stay back.

But in economics, the word signaling has a special meaning. The basic idea is that people do something difficult or costly for example, going through a fraternity initiation — to prove themselves in some way. Some believe that tattoos are a social signal; they're very visible and hard to remove, so they might represent a way that people prove that they're committed to a certain subculture. Economists have used the signaling idea to try to explain everything from college education to hipster mustaches (with varying degrees of plausibility).

Wearing a mask could serve as a relatively costly signal that someone is serious about social distancing. It's costly because it looks unattractive and causes other people to treat you with suspicion. Thus, it could be a forceful, effective message to others to stay away when otherwise they might not respect your boundaries.

The U.S. could benefit from this approach, especially now. In the U.S., where wearing masks isn't common or widely accepted, the signal could be even more powerful. Americans are unused to the idea of social distancing and many aren't yet taking it seriously. Furthermore, because many Americans don't understand how enidemics can explode in a very short period of time, they may be inclined to disobey shutdowns and party on as if nothing's

But if even a few more Americans wear masks, it could send a credible signal to all those who might otherwise disdain authoritarian government directives or breathless media reports. The mask-wearers would get funny looks or even taunts initially, but their presence would help convince their skeptical neighbors that this is an unusual and serious situation requiring an unusual and serious response.

The problem is that surgical masks now are in short supply. The U.S. isn't a big manufacturer of masks; it has chosen to outsource that task to China So until production can be ramped up, most masks need to be reserved for medical use. A few Americans wearing masks as a social signal to encourage social distancing is fine, but if too many people do it, it can deprive hospitals of the materials they need.

Still, when mask production comes online, more Americans should consider adopting this common Japanese practice. Until then, Americans should consider using a face scarf instead. Coronavirus won't be the last pandemic, and teaching Americans how to shift into social distance ing mode will bear lasting dividends.

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Bloomberg LP and its owners.

# To preserve progress in S. Korea, defeat complacency

BY CHARLENE GUZMAN Special to Stars and Stripes

s the sun rises on another uncertain day over the Korean Peninsula, leaders must awake to an increasingly problematic question: How can we protect ourselves from an enemy we cannot see? I can only imagine the enormity of the task they face every day, as they make decisions to combat this invisible force. I join others in commending their efforts thus far. Now it seems as if the coronavirus has finally roused the American government from its slumber, and its leaders too are looking at South Korea with eyes wide, watching and waiting to see if the changes implemented throughout U.S. Forces Korea and beyond can mount a strong defense against this unseen foe. They look expectantly to us for best practices and policies in the hopes that they can replicate these guidelines in their own communities. Are we up to the task?

I've heard many leaders, both in Daegu and Camp Humphreys, frequently speak about "protecting the bubble." The screenings conducted at the gates have given us a false sense of control over the spread of the virus. Questions regarding a person's whereabouts and temperature checks at the gates could never adequately determine an individual's exposure since, according to the World Health Organization, a person can be asymptomatic and still have and spread the virus. We have seen the weakness of this bubble with positive COVID cases identified in both locations.

Even under the best of circumstances.

the analogy of the bubble is both misleading and dangerous. Misleading in that our gate procedures are not foolproof and dangerous in that it breeds complacency. Unchecked complacency is now our greatest threat. It is evident in the reestablishment of the SKIES programs, in the growing participation in religious services, and in the possible reopening of the Department of Defense Education Activity school system, just to name a few. The pandemic has gripped the entire world, but USFK seems too anxious to return to life as usual.

In a recent BBC report, Dr. Keri Althoff, a professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said "although children usually display mild or no symptoms of coronavirus, they can spread the virus to others." The WHO continues to recommend so-cial distancing, in which "both adults and children stay six feet apart at all times, as one tactic against the spread of this virus. Reopening schools would eradicate that possibility. How will social distancing be achieved on a packed school bus, in a crowded classroom, or on line during lunch in the cafeteria? Are we seriously asking our children, whether they are 5 or 15 years old, to self-regulate and maintain the proper social distance from their friends? Is it reasonable to lay that responsibility on their shoulders?

I don't dare to assume that USFK leadership has not considered the risks posed by reopening schools. And I'm sure officials have had an onslaught of cries from parents who feel ill-equipped and unprepared for this current situation. Unless you are an experienced homeschooler, managing your child's education at home might seem like a daunting task. But I would also argue, for parents who feel overwhelmed with their children at home, what is it worth to you to keep your family safe?

The enemy is still at our gate, waiting for the moment when we surrender to our frustrations and anxieties. Posting soldiers on school buses and at school entrances to take temperatures will not adequately screen for children who might be carrying the virus, but not displaying symptoms. I urge USFK leadership to hold steady to the precautions they have taken, as tedious and disruptive as they may be to daily life.

I ask them to consider other measures to keep our communities safe. For example, if schools do reopen, will virtual classrooms remain active for those families who do not feel comfortable sending their children to school? Even though the rate of positive cases on the peninsula has begun to slow, we must remember the virus can rebound once we have dropped our defenses.

This is a pivotal moment, and yes, the world is watching to see what we will do next. We hope, in the end, we can look back and say we were overly cautious, and the disease did not progress any further.

However, this is not the time for retreat The fight is still real. And if we are to win the battle against this virus, complacency must not have its way.

Charlene Guzman is a freelance writer and eight-year Army Public Affairs veteran who is eight-year Army Public Affairs Veterali wifo is pursuing a Master in Fine Arts in creative writing with Harvard Extension School. She and her active-duty husband are stationed at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys with their five children.

# OPINION

# What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

#### Provide cash assistance to Americans in the best way The New York Times

The United States has never experienced anything quite like the economic disjuncture caused by the spread of the new coronavirus. Airports and malls are empty. Restaurants and movie theaters are closed. The collapse is happening so fast it isn't visible yet in standard data like the unemployment rate, but startling facts are piling up.

OpenTable, a restaurant reservation website, reported 56% fewer people ate at its member restaurants on Monday compared with the same day last year. In a poll, almost one-fifth of the respondents said they were working fewer hours or had lost their jobs.

The economy tends to slide into recession. This is free-fall.

The crisis requires an urgent response from the federal government, and the most important step is simple: Send \$2,000 to every American, immediately.

People need money to pay the rent, the mortgage, the utility bills. Handing out money also would encourage consumer spending, which is the primary form of economic activity in this country. And that, in turn, would help to keep small businesses open, and workers employed.

Politicians are coalescing rapidly around the benefits of handing out money. Sen. Mitt Romney proposed Monday to send everyone \$1,000. A group of six senators upped the ante on Tuesday, proposing to send everyone an initial \$2,000 and as

much as \$4,500 by the end of the year. The first round of payments would cost about \$660 billion, equal to roughly 3% of the economy's total output last year — big enough to offset the severe drop in economic activity that forecasters are predicting in the second quarter of the year. The government would then make additional quarterly payments until the unemployment rate subsided.

The Trump administration, which tried unsuccessfully to rally support for a payroll tax cut — a plan that, among other problems, would help only people with jobs — said Tuesday that it was also willing to support cash payments.

One downside to blanket distribution is that some people don't need the money. There are sensible ways of correcting for this. The government could require people to pay income taxes on the money. Those with higher incomes would pay higher rates and, as an added benefit, some of the money would flow to state and local governments, which are likely to experience sharp drops in revenue. Alternatively, the federal government could use a sliding scale: less money for those with higher incomes. But there are benefits to universal distribution, too. The government can't anticipate who is going to lose their jobs.

A drawback to sending money is that it takes time. Congress authorized a similar plan in February 2008 but the first checks didn't go out for months, in late April. But this, too, can be mitigated by delivering more aid through existing safety net programs, which are devised to help those in the greatest need, and by limiting the potential consequences, for example by imposing a moratorium on tenant evictions and foreclosures.

One concern that ought to be discarded is the strange idea that the federal government is running low on money. Former Vice President Joe Biden, the front-runner



for the Democratic presidential nomination, suggested Sunday that the Trump administration's 2017 tax cuts had exhausted the government's fiscal capacity. Those tax cuts were a terrible misuse of public resources, but the historically low level of interest rates on federal debt suggests lenders are eager to shovel money into the government's coffers.

Giving money to people is just one component of an effective fiscal response to the pandemic. The first step, underway but far from complete, is protecting public health. The failures of the federal response to the widening outbreak, particularly the continuing absence of large-scale testing, are exacerbating the economic damage.

In countries with effective testing, like South Korea, it's easier to limit economic disruptions. Blue Bottle Coffee, a Nestle subsidiary, said Sunday that it was shutting its American locations but would keep its cafes open in Japan and South Korea because those countries have "extensive testing and medical support clearly in place."

Congress approved an initial dose of \$8.3 billion for public health measures, including money for masks and other supplies; for medical research; and for state and local public health departments. A second bill, which passed the House and is awaiting Senate consideration, would expand spending on safety net programs, including unemployment insurance, health insurance and food stamps.

The second step is containing the economic damage, which includes sending out checks to people. The government also needs to provide help to businesses.

The Pederal Reserve said Tuesday that it would backstop the market in short-term corporate borrowing, known as commercial paper, as part of its efforts to hold down borrowing costs. That will mostly help larger companies, but it is smaller companies that face the most acute threats to survival. Companies that sell services are in particular jeopardy.

The challenge confronting policymakers is to preserve businesses — and jobs — that were viable before the crisis and can be viable in the aftermath.

The government should make low-interest loans readily available to smaller businesses but with explicit requirements for maintaining employment. Demark, for example, is offering to cover 75% of the payroll at troubled companies — so long as recipients maintain those jobs.

Congress is rightly warier of proposals to bail out big companies, like casinos, cruise ships or airlines. Any such bailouts, which the Trump administration appears eager to orchestrate, must include conditions well beyond preserving jobs. Delta, American, Southwest and United, which booked billions of dollars in profits as a result of the 2017 tax cut, are low on cash in part because they spent \$39 billion over the past five years repurchasing shares of their own stock. Boeing, also begging for a bailout, spent \$35 billion on its shares.

(Buybacks benefit investors by raising the value of the remaining shares.)

It is incumbent upon policymakers to ensure that airline profits during the next economic expansion are distributed more equitably. Companies must be barred from shoveling federal aid out the back door in the form of executive bonuses, dividend payments or stock buybacks. Sen. Elizabeth Warren has suggested, quite reasonably, that airlines or other big companies that receive government bailouts should be required to start paying a \$15 minimum wage within a year after the end of the national emergency.

The federal response to the 2008 economic crisis was remarkably successful in preserving American corporations. That was critical, but it was not good enough. This time, the government needs to do a better job of helping individual Americans to weather the crisis.

### Hospitals can only do so much on pandemic without help The Washington Post

When a coronavirus infection advances through the body in more severe cases, the lungs begin to fill with fluid and breathing becomes difficult. In a hospital intensive care unit, life-saving ventilators can help a patient survive by pumping oxygen into the impaired lungs. But what if thousands more people need hospital beds and ventilators than are available;

That is the nightmare scenario facing the United States and other nations in the pandemic. In Italy, doctors are having to make painful choices about which patients get treatment. President Donald Trump told governors in a conference call on Monday morning, "Respirators, ventilators, all of the equipment — try getting it yourselves. We will be backing you, but try getting it yourselves. Point of sales, much better, much more direct if you can get it yourself."

That was shortsighted. The federal government ought to be doing everything in its power to make sure the worst-case scenario does not happen. Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, has proposed that the United States "needs a wartime mobilization" to boost the supply of ventilators. We'd settle for even a decent peacetime mobilization.

Whether the worst case will happen is not yet known. But an epidemiological study published Monday by Imperial College, London, focusing on Britain and the United States, makes the point that all the non-pharmaceutical measures now being proposed — social distancing of the entire population, case isolation, household quarantine if one member is sick and school closures, a so-called suppression strategy—will have to be undertaken to reduce the stress on hospitals. If a less intense strategy is followed, the study warns, it would result in an "8-fold higher peak demand on critical care beds over and above the avail-

able surge capacity" in both Britain and the United States.

Hospital beds are a major worry. In another study, published in pre-print and not yet peer reviewed, Eric S. Toner of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins and colleagues calculated that, using data from the Wuhan, China, outbreak, the demand for critical care treatment at the peak of the pandemic might be 259 people per million. Excluding the Department of Veterans Affairs system, there are 46,500 medical intensive care unit beds in the United States, or 178 per million, with 70% to 80% of them already occupied on any given day. Without any changes, that means that in an average metropolitan area of 1 million, there are only 36 to 53 empty, staffed intensive care beds to meet a need that might be 259. To alleviate the shortage, hospitals will have to take drastic rationing action. postpone other treatments, seek additional space, and even then, it is not clear there will be sufficient capacity. In the case of ventilators, too, there are 62,000 immediately available and another 99,000 that could be pulled out in an emergency, according to Forbes. But that might still not be sufficient, depending on the size of the pandemic.

By acting now, we may avert a hospital catastrophe. The government also should be rushing to help add supplies, using whatever means works, even "wartime mobilization" if necessary. "Do it yourself" is not leadership.

### Dems' litmus test on abortion forced Biden to change views The Wall Street Journal

Another sign of the age: Chicagoland Congressman Dan Lipinski, one of the Democratic Party's final antiabortion holdouts, lost a primary election Tuesday by two points, or about 2,500 votes. The traditional working-class Democrats who once chose Lipinski — and his father before him — used to be a keystone in the party's base.

But the left today tolerates no dissent on abortion. National progressives, including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders, piled in to defeat Lipinski. Officially, the Democratic Party's apparatus supports its incumbents, but few bigwigs have gone out of their way to help Lipinski. Two years ago his fellow Illinois Congressman Luis Gutierrez called him "a dinosaur" and a holdover from the party of 1980, who should be "a relic in some museum."

Apropos enough, Joe Biden spent decades opposed to taxpayer funding of abortion, until last summer when he revised his values to fit the times. On Tuesday, Biden swept primaries in three states, carrying Florida by 39 points, Illinois by 23 and Arizona by 12, with some ballots still uncounted. In each state, he won men and women, whites and nonwhites, people with and without college degrees. Sanders is stepping back to "assess his campaign." his staff said Wednesday.

Yet look at the exit polling of Democrats. Medicare for All registers 55% support to 33% oppose in Florida; 61% to 32% in Illinois, and 58% to 34% in Arizona. In President Barack Obama's old turf, Illinois, 43% say they want the nation's next leader to be more liberal than Obama. Only 37% want a restoration of what Biden sometimes calls "our administration."

In remarks Tuesday night, Biden again reached out to progressives. "Senator Sanders and I may disagree on tactics," he said, "but we share a common vision." He directed a message to young Bernie voters: "I hear you. I know what's at stake. I know what we have to do." When will Biden get around to reassuring moderates and independents?

It's Joe Biden's moment, but his agenda and Dan Lipinski's defeat show how fast the party is moving in Bernie Sanders' direction

# **FACES**



WILLY SANJUAN, INVISION/AF

John Legend, shown March 5 in Beverly Hills, Calif., says he might release new music this spring despite production challenges.

# **LIVE!** From their living room to yours

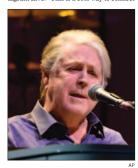
# Housebound artists stream performances online for fans

By Mesfin Fekadu Associated Press

he spreading coronavirus canceled several touring performances from A-list musical artists, but those acts have found a new venue to sing: their living rooms.

John Legend, Bono, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Pink, John Mayer, Keith Urban and more have held virtual concerts from their homes as the world continues to practice social distancing to slow the spread of the virus.

"I mean, we don't normally do concerts live from our house in a robe," Legend told The Associated Press late Tuesday, hours after performing a nearly hourlong concert which streamed on Facebook and Instagram Live. "This is a cool way to connect



Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys, shown in 2017, was the first performer of the new IGTV performance series launched this week by Rolling Stone magazine.

with people and make them feel some kind of love and intimacy and connection, even though they have to be stuck at home.

"So many people are dealing with a lot of stress right now, trauma, anxiety, all hose things. And they don't know what to do. And a lot of musticans and artists and entertainers are unable to go out and do the thing that we do best, which is perform live at venues with lots of people," he added. "So we're trying to find ways to stay in touch with people and give them some love."

The piano-playing superstar took requests from fans as he crooned from his living room like he does at one of his typical live concerts. Legend's performance was in support of the World Health Organization's newly-launched online concert series "Together at Home," created in efforts to fight the coronavirus, which causes only mild or moderate symptoms such as fever and cough for most people but can be severe in some cases, especially older adults and people with existing health problems. People with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe liness may need six weeks to recover.

Rolling Stone magazine, which closed its offices like many companies to prevent the virus from spreading, launched the new IGTV performance series "In My Room" on Wednesday at 3 p.m. Eastern. It featured Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys performing "In My Room" as well as other classic songs; episodes will be released every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

"We've never been in this type of space before, and is' really incredible to see artists coming together to figure out ways that they can bring joy and comfort and happiness to their fans given this crazy time that we're living in at the moment," said Kevin O'Donnell, Twitter's head of music partnerships. "I think the creativity is just going to even more."

Other acts stuck indoors are finding ways to promote new albums or make up



Pink is among the celebrities streaming performances from home this week.

for canceled and postponed shows.

The canceled Luck Reunion festival, annually held in Willie Nelson's backyard, was rescheduled for Thursday as a free broadcast featuring call-in sets filmed live by artist themselves from their own homes. Planned performers included Lukas Nelson, Jewel, Nathaniel Rateliff, Margo Price and more.

Latin superstars Juanes and Alejandro Sanz, whose concerts were postponed because of the virus, joined forces for a special streaming jam session in Miami last weekend, while Broadway stars are putting on twice-a-day concerts called "Stars in the House." And alternative rock-pop band Grouplove and singer-songwriter Caitlyn Smith, who both released albums March 13 and had tour plans in support of the albums scrapped, are livestreaming performances.

Legend, who has been working on new music, may still release the songs this spring while folks are homebound.

"I have a bunch of new music that's already almost done. We just have to mix it, which won't require a lot of group contact. So, I think we can get a lot of that out to people sooner rather than later," he said.

"We have to decide as a music community if we're going to let the fact that we can't go out and physically promote it stop us from putting it out. And I tend to think we should put stuff out."

Legend is also in the middle of figuring out if his U.S. tour, which is expected to launch in August, will still go on.

The Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony winner compared current times to a film when aliens attack and "the whole earth comes together."

"This is one of those things that all of us are facing as a global community. And it doesn't discriminate based on what nation we live in or what race we are. And we have to come together as a community and do what we need to do to help each other get through it," he said.

# Virus causes more festival cancellations

The Associated Press

Safety measures taken in an effort to halt the spread of the coronavirus continues to affect major entertainment events. Among the most recent:

# First Eurovision interruption

The Eurovision Song Contest has been canceled. The organizers of the event that was to have been staged in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam in May amnounced the decision Wednesday "with deep regret," blaming "uncertainty created by the spread" of the virus and restrictions imposed by governments across Europe.

Organizers said the contest that pits performers and songs representing countries from around Europe and further afield against one another has been broadcast for 64 years without interruption "and we, like the millions of fans around the world, are extremely saddened that it cannot take place in May."

The European Broadcasting Union says it will continue talks with Dutch host broadcasters and Rotterdam authorities about the contest set for 2021.

## No Glastonbury Festival

One of Britain's biggest summer music events, the Glastonbury Festival, has been canceled. Organizers say the festival, due to take place June 24-28, would be postponed until 2021.

Glastonbury organizers Michael Eavis and Emily Eavis said there would "inevitably be severe financial implications" for staff, suppliers, charities supported by Glastonbury and more. But they said there was no choice but to call off the festival in light of government advice for people to avoid contact with others.

The festival takes over Worthy Farm in southwest England every June. The 135,000 tickets for this year's event sold within an hour of going on sale.

#### Bonnaroo rescheduled

The Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival will be rescheduled to take place Sept. 24-27 "out of an abundance of caution and for the health and safety of all Bonnaroovians, artists, staff and our community."

The festival in a statement said all current tickets and onsite accommodations will be honored for the new weekend.

The festival normally takes place in June in Manchester, Tenn.

# Playwrights fight back

The Dramatists Guild is pushing back against any theater producers asking playwrights to return advances for shows that have been canceled due to the coronavirus.

"Options and advances paid to dramatists are not returnable," the guild said in a statement Wednesday. "Stop scapegoating the dramatists at this unprecedented time."

The guild had this guidance: "Our advice to dramatists confronted by these demands is to just say no, with the full knowledge that it was unfair for you to be put in this position in the first place."

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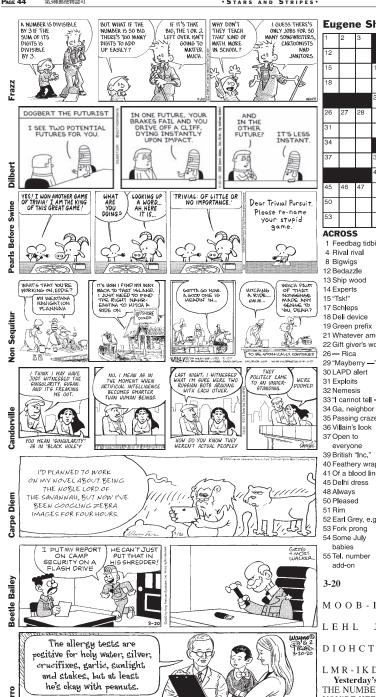
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# **Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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50					51		Ī			52				
53					54					55				
ACI	ROS	S	•	D	DOWN					26 Sleeve end				

#### ACROSS

- 1 Feedbag tidbit
- 4 Rival rival
- 12 Bedazzle
- 13 Ship wood
- 14 Experts
- 17 Schleps
- 19 Green prefix
- 21 Whatever amount
- 22 Gift giver's words
- 29 "Mayberry --
- 30 LAPD alert
- 31 Exploits
- 32 Nemesis
- 34 Ga. neighbor
- 35 Passing craze
- 36 Villain's look
- 37 Open to
- everyone
- 39 British "Inc." 40 Feathery wrap
- 41 Of a blood line
- 45 Delhi dress
- 48 Always
- 50 Pleased
- 51 Rim
- 52 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 53 Fork prona
- 54 Some July
- babies
- add-on

# DOWN

3 Actress Hatcher

4 Goddess of

5 "Rescue Me"

star Denis

6 Shriver of tennis

7 Artist Georgia

9 Post-op area

11 Snake's warning

16 Sings like Ella

20 Massachusetts

23 Harvard rival

10 Wooden pin

8 Bravery

cane

24 Mayberry

moppet

25 Modern taxi

alternative

wisdom

- 1 Lummoxes 2 Military no-show
- 27 Norway's capital 28 Burn somewhat
- 29 Scepter
- 32 Pita sandwich
- filler
- 33 Tennis great
- Agassi
- 35 "Alice" waitress
- 36 Feeds the
- furnace
- 38 Tolerate
- 39 Slow tempo
- 42 Head, to Henri
- 43 Pinnacle
- 44 Aspiring
- atty 's exam
- 45 Pvt.'s superior
- 46 Foreman foe
- 47 Scooted
- 49 Praise in verse
- Answer to Previous Puzzle

LEO

# BE

I A M USED Ε S AR Α 1

#### С С Т WEDNESDA BAN NECTAR APTL Т MONT RIOID Ε С Α W AlDID UNO Ν Ν Α 00 T В S M E D МА 1 S C O MARIN U N D MOVINGD Α NA Е R 0 S Е L

# CRYPTOQUIP

MOOB-IRFQ HFFTHI OZOFL

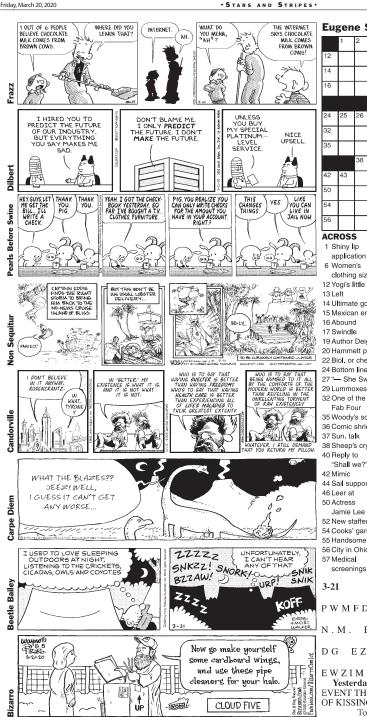
JRVVOVRXHLOC

DIOHCTXOC R U BKCCKFO:

LMR-IKD UOCLKZHI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE MONITORING THE NUMBER OF KITTIES A GUY HAS, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE KEEPING TABBIES ON HIM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals W



# Fugene Sheffer Crossword

Lugelle Silellei Ciossword												
	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
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42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

# ACROSS

- 1 Shiny lip application
- clothing size
- 12 Yogi's little pal
- 14 Ultimate goal
- 15 Mexican entree 16 Abound
- 17 Swindle
- 19 Author Deighton
- 20 Hammett pooch 22 Biol. or chem.
- 24 Bottom line
- 27 "- She Sweet"
- 32 One of the
- Fab Four
- 35 Woody's son
- 36 Comic shrieks 37 Sun. talk
- 38 Sheep's cry
- 40 Reply to
- 42 Mimic
- 44 Sail support
- 46 Leer at
- 50 Actress
- Jamie Lee
- 52 New staffers
- 54 Cooks' garments
- 55 Handsome guy 56 City in Ohio
- 57 Medical
- screenings
- 3 21

### DOWN 1 Vanished

- 2 Mine find
- 3 44th president 4 Costa
- del -
- 5 Start of summer
- or winter
- 6 Anti-fur org.
- 7 Scholastic hurdles
- 8 Director
- Burton
- 9 Natives of
- Naples
- 10 Far (Pref.)
- 11 Idyllic place
- 12 Wager
- 18 Annuls 21 Actor Waterston
- 23 Guest's bed
- 24 Hot tub

- 25 Former Mideast org.
- 26 Purplish black 28 "So there!"
- 30 Service charge 31 Damascus
- is its cap.
- 33 Mauna -
- 34 Letters after Q
- 39 Acid type
- 41 Hungarian-
- born financier
- 42 Military sch.
- 43 Former larva
- 45 Org.
- 47 Bloke
- 48 Maui garlands
- 49 Curvy letter 51 Nanny's
- charge
- 53 Chemical
- suffix

- Answer to Previous Puzzle

BDMKIU

# OATALPOVIPS

Α	W	Е		Т	Е	Α	Κ		Α	С	Е	S
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# **CRYPTOQUIP**

GPDE PWMFDCMW  $\mathbf{Z}$ GDPEWP

N.M. FPWMHVWCK ZBBNMWV

PWZIIU

EWZIM: "H'E CDK Z BDDR."

EZRHCY

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WEEK-LONG ANNUAL EVENT THAT COMMEMORATES THE PLEASURES OF KISSING: A TWO-LIP FESTIVAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals C



# MILITARY MATTERS



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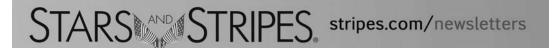
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#### Deals

# Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Optioned C
ermin Mercedes and RHP Jose Ruiz to

harlotte (IL). LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned LHP LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned LHP Jose Quijada, RHP Kyle Keller, C Anthony Bemboom, RHP Jaime Barria and RHP Taylor Cole to Salt Lake (PCL). National League

National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned RHP
se De Leon and C Tyler Stephenson to

Jose De Leon and C Tyler Stephenson to Louisville (IL). MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Optioned 3B Ryon Healy, 2B Mark Mathias, SS Ronny Rodriguez and C David Freitas to San An-tonio (PCL).

tonio (PCL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Released CB
Desmond Trufant. Acquired TE Hayden
Hurst and a 2020 fourth-round pick from
Baltimore for a 2020 second and fifth-

patitione for a 2020 second and fifth-round picks.

BUTAL SHILLS — Acquired WR Ste-BUTAL SHILLS — Acquired WR Ste-BUTAL SHILLS — Acquired WR Ste-fform the Vikings for the 2020 first, fifth and sixth-round picks and a 2021 fourth-round pick. Signed LB Tyler Matakevich, port of the Steff St a one-year deal.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Released S

Eric Reed.

CHICAGO BEARS — Released OLB
Leonard Floyd. Signed TE Jimmy Graham
to a two-year contract. Signed DE Robert
Quinn to a five-year contract. Acquired
OB Nick Foles from Jacksonville for a
fourth-round pick.

CINCKNATI BERNOLALS — Released CB

B.W. Webb and G John Miller.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Re-signed S Darlan Thompson to a two-year contract.

DENYER BEONCOS — Placed secondpenyers growers and the second contract of the se

tract. GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed RT Rick Wagner and LB Christian Kirksey to two-

wagner and LD Christian Kirksey to two-year contracts.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Acquired DL DeForest Buckner from San Francisco for the 2020 13th overall pick. Signed DL DeForest Buckner to a four-year contract extension.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Re-signed OL

Austin Blythe to a one-year deal.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Released S Reshad MIAM/DOLPHINS - Released S Reshad Jones, Mike Hull and DT Kendrick Norton. Waived C Evan Brown, CB Rashard Case, Y Chief Josephan Charles Kirk Cousins to a three-year contract extension. Re-Signed FB CJ. Ham to a four-year contract. Re-Signed P Britton Colgitit to a three-year contract three-year contract. The Cousins to a three-year contract three-year contract. The Cousins to a three-year contract contract. The Cousins to a three-year contract. The Cousins three-year contract. Th

Josh Kline.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Re-signed

DB Devin McCourty to a two-year contract. Signed DL Beau Allen to a two-year

ntract.

NEW YORK JETS — Re-signed G Alex wis to a three-year contract. Released

CB Trumaine Johnson.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Released
DB Malcolm Jenkins. Re-signed DB Jalen
Mills, DL Hassan Ridgeway and QB Nate
Sudfeld to one-year contracts. Re-signed
S Rodney McLeod to a two-year con-

tract.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed LB
Ryan Shazier on the reserved list. Resigned LS Kameron Canaday. Re-signed
OT Zach Banner to a one-year contract.
Released FB Roosevelk Nix.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Re-signed

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Re-signed Arik Armstead to a five-year contract. Re-signed OT Shon Coleman, RB Matt Breida and WR Kendrick Bourne to one-year contracts. SEATILE SEAHAWKS — Re-signed of larran Reed to a two-year contract.

DT Jarran Reed to a two-year contract. Signed TE Greg Olsen to a one-year con-

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Re-signed OLB Jason Pierre-Paul to a two-year contract.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Re-signed OT
Dennis Kelly to a three-year contract.

# AP sportlight

1939 — In a game of unbeaten teams, Long Island U. defeats Loyola of Chicago 44-32 to win the National Invitation Tour-

# Flame arriving amid calls for delay

BY STEPHEN WADE Associated Press

TOKYO - The Olympic flame is set to arrive in Japan from Greece even as the opening of the Tokyo Games in four months is in doubt with more voices calling for the event to be postponed or canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The flame was scheduled to touch down Friday aboard a white aircraft painted with the inscription "Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay" on its side, and "Hope Lights Our Way" stenciled near the tail section.

Everything about the arrival ceremony at the Matsushima air base in northern Japan was to be subdued. The flame was to be greeted by a few dignitaries, saluted by a flyover from an aerial acrobatic team - if weather permitted — and then used to ignite a cauldron. The burning vessel will be displayed in

three northern prefectures before the official relay begins on March 26 from Fukushima prefecture, which was devastated nine years ago by an earthquake, tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors.

Thousands of people from the region are still in temporary housing and life has not returned to normal for many. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hopes to use the Olympics to crown his run as Japan's longest serving premier, and many suggest he may not be around if the games are put off and the economy

Taro Aso, the Japanese finance minister and former prime minister, characterized the Tokyo Games as the "cursed Olympics" when speaking on Wednesday in a parliamentary committee. Aso was born in 1940, the year Tokyo was to hold its first Olympics, which were called off because of World War II.

"This isn't a phrase that the press could like to hear, but it's true," said Aso, who was a member of Japan's shooting team at the 1976 Montreal Olympics.



Former Japanese swimmer Imoto Naoko holds the Olympic torch during the flame handover ceremony for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics on March 19 in Athens.

Aso pointed out that even as the situation in Japan and Asia improves, it's worse globally.

"We certainly hope to have a situation where everyone can at least come to Japan feeling safe and happy." Aso said. "But the question is how we do that. It is something that Japan alone cannot achieve, and I don't have an answer to this.

Getting the flame to Japan represents a small victory for the International Olympic Committee and local organizers, who maintain the Olympics will open as scheduled on July 24 and be followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 25.

Even if they don't, the burning flame could be used as a symbol - particularly if the Games are eventually delayed - and a rallyng point for the Japanese public.

In a conference call on Wednesday, IOC president Thomas Bach got support for holding course, but is also getting push back from athletes who can't train, are confused about the qualification process, and worry about their health. Critics are also complaining about the unfairness of qualifying, which might give some athletes advantages over others.

Tokyo organizers have stripped most of the festivities from the relay, and have asked roadside crowds to be "restrained" and keep their distance from others. If that does not happen, organizers say they could stop the relay, or delay it.

# NASCAR tackling how to reschedule races

By Jenna Fryer Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - NAS-CAR plans to reschedule the seven Cup Series races already postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Figuring out how to cram the events and the All-Star race into the crowded 36-race schedule could be difficult.

NASCAR has already postponed its season until May 9 at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia. IndyCar suspended its start to the season through the end of April last week, while Formula One has postponed or canceled several events, including last weekend's opener in Australia.

"These clearly are unprec-edented times with information changing by the hour," NASCAR President Steve Phelps said Tuesday. "Collectively, our industry has made several difficult decisions, all with one thought in mind the health and safety of our fans, our competitors, employees and everyone in the industry. The situation we are facing transcends the world of sports. What is most important now is we take precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible during these challenging



The grandstands are empty overlooking pit lane during the opening day of the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, Fla. on March 13. NASCAR postponed its season until May, while IndyCar postponed its season until at least the end of April.

Motorsports is in a particularly perilous position without weekly racing because of its financial structure. Teams must find the sponsorship needed to field each car, pay drivers, make payroll for an entire organization and cover additional operating costs. With no events scheduled until May, sponsors may ask for refunds and teams won't be collecting payouts from purses.

Roger Penske, who in January became owner of IndyCar and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, promised team owners they will receive the first installment payment from the series' bonus program as planned.

Phelps said NASCAR is still working through those issues.

"We are working with our teams closely to have them industry wide make sure we are all financially viable moving forward during this postponement of our races," Phelps said. "Are we concerned about teams broadly and their financial health? Of course we are. We want to make sure that each of our teams gets through this each of our stakeholders in the industry gets through this crisis as well as we all can."

As for rescheduling the postoned events - at Atlanta, Homestead-Miami, Texas Motor Speedway, Bristol (Tenn.), Richmond (Va.), Talladega (Ala.) and Dover (Del.) — Phelps said all options are under consideration That includes midweek races and doubleheaders.

NASCAR does want the postponed events concluded before the start of its playoffs in September, still wants the season to end as planned at Phoenix in November and isn't sure if it will race during a planned break during the Tokyo Olympics, as requested by broadcast partner NBC Sports.

# VIRUS OUTBREAK

# MAJOR POSTPONEMENTS March Madness

# Following a flurry of conferences and individual teams calling off their basketball seasons on March 12, the NCAA followed suit. They scrapped all college winter and spring championships, the highlight of which is the men's basketball tournament — a three-week extravaganza that stands as the biggest event this side of the Super Bowl on the U.S. sports calendar. The tournament had been held every year since 1939 for men's teams.

# NBA

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said March 12 that the league's hiatus because of the coronavirus pandemic will likely last at least a month, or roughly what would have been the remainder of an uninterrupted regular season. The league suspended play March 11 after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus. On Tuesday, it was learned that four Brooklyn Nets players, including Kevin Durant, have tested positive for the new coronavirus, bringing the total to seven known players in the NBA.

Silver did not say if the league intends the regular season to resume or if the NBA, should it return to action, would immediately go into postseason play. The 30-day minimum hiatus would mean no games until at least April 10.

# Baseball

Major League Baseball scrapped spring training and postponed the start of its season, originally scheduled for March 26, to mid-May, at the earliest. MLB had not had a mass postponement of openers since 1995, when the season was shortened from 162 games to 144 following a 7½-month players' strike that also wiped out the 1994 World Series.

The minor league season, which was to start April 9, also will be delayed along with qualifying in Arizona for this year's Olympic baseball tournament and for next year's World Baseball Classic.

# Boxing

Top Rank canceled two shows headlined by its elite young talent scheduled for New York last week. Former U.S. Olympian Shakur Stevenson was supposed to defend his featherweight title Saturday, and Ireland's Michael Conlan was to fight on St. Patrick's Day.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Workers begin to dismantle the grandstand for the IndyCar Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg on Monday in St. Petersburg, Fla. Race organizers canceled the event to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

# Auto racing

Seven total NASCAR races have been put on hold, with a planned return on May 9 at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia. The sport had run just four of 36 scheduled events prior to postporning last week's race in Atlanta and this week's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

IndyCar announced last week that it would suspend its season through the end of April. The IndyCar Series also had planned to run last weekend in St. Petersburg, Fla., without fans in attendance before having a change of heart.

The iconic Monaco Grand
Prix was added Thursday to a
growing list of Formula One races
to be postponed because of the
coronavirus outbreak.

The first seven races of the Formula One season have now been postponed, with Netherlands and Spain joining Monaco as the latest to be called off. F1 may scrap its mid-season break.

# Hockey

The NHL significantly pushed back its timeline of when it can potentially resume playing by several weeks, if not a month or more, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The league and NHL Players' Association told players Monday they can go home — even outside of North America — and must self-isolate through March 27 while the season is on hold. But the NHL also cautioned that it will not be able to even provide guidance on the potential reopening of team practices for another 45 days, which could push any potential return to play into May.

Bettman last week urged players to self-isolate while the league is on hiatus. The Stanley Cup has been awarded every year since 1893 with two exceptions: 1919, when the final was canceled after five games because of the Spanish flu outbreak, and the 2005 lockout.

## Golf

On Wednesday, the second maor of the year was rescheduled. The PGA Championship, which was set for May 14-17 at Harding Park in San Francisco, will be rescheduled, the PGA of America said. Last week, Augusta National announced that the Masters scheduled for April 9-12, also would be played at a later date, with no indication as to when it might be played. The Masters has finished in April every year since 1935 — the first tournament was in late March — except when it was canceled from 1943 to 1945 because of World War II.

The PGA Tour decided Thursday to scrap the rest of The Players Championship and shut down its other tournaments for the next three weeks. The LPGA Tour postponed three tournaments, beginning this week, including its first major of the season.

## MMA

The UFC has postponed its next three scheduled events through April 11. The UFC will not hold its show scheduled for Saturday, which was initially slated to be held in a full arena in London. The UFC also word't hold shows for March 28 and April 11. UFC President Dana White said he will hold UFC 249 on April 18, although he doesn't have a venue.

## Soccer

MLS is shutting down for 30 days and plans to reschedule matches on the back end of the season. The Premier League and the Champions League were suspended Friday, meaning all five of Europe's biggest national competitions are on hold. On Tuesday, Euro 2020 became Euro 2021 The 24-nation tournament was to start June 12 but is now set for next year from June 11 to July 11. The last time MLS faced such a disruption was after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The National Women's Soccer League, scheduled to begin April 18, canceled its preseason.

# **Tennis**

French Open officials announced Tuesday that the second Grand Slam event of the year, which traditionally starts during the final week of May, will be played Sept. 20 to Oct. 4.

The WTA Tour currently plans to resume play on May 2, the start date of the Madrid Open, with the ATP Tour relaunching with clay events a week earlier.

The International Tennis Federation also announced that it had suspended play until April 20 at the earliest.

# Olympics

Tokyo Olympic organizers say the Japan Gymnastics Association called off the April 4-5 Artistic Gymnastics All-Around World Cup, which was also being organized by FIG, the world governing body of the sport.

Tokyo 2020 officials say they will attempt to carry out an "operational test" on the same date.

Tokyo organizers have 15 test events remaining to conduct, with the final one ending on May 6. Few are likely to be carried out as scheduled.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Tokyo organizers and the IOC have repeatedly said the Olympics will open as scheduled on July 24.

From wire reports

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# No wins, all losses for NCAA tournament

# How will it recoup millions from lost event?

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The NCAA made more than \$1 billion last year, almost \$867 million from the men's Division I basketball tournament, and most of that from a massive television rights deal with CBS and Turner that runs through the 2032 tournament.

The cornonavirus not only wiped out

the games, but it will create some unexpected red ink on the NCAA's balance sheet this year. Exactly how much is to be determined.

"Well, I can't give you any specific numbers because we don't know yet," NCAA President Mark Emmert said. "We KAA wow that the financial implications are all negative and we're going to have to deal with those."

The NCAA canceled the tournament last Thursday because of concerns over spreading the virus. At first, the NCAA announced the games would go on, but the general public would be kept out of the buildings. A day later, the whole thing was scrapped.

The NCAA's contract with CBS and Turner pays about \$800 million per year.

It is standard for media rights contracts to have language that relieves rights holders from financial obligations if games are canceled due to events outside the control of the property, said Chris Bevilacqua, cofounder of Bevilacqua Helfant Ventures.

"Typically, those right fees are paid in installments. Let's presume a couple of those installments were probably already paid and the bigger installments haven't heep paid because the tournament hasn't happened," said Bevilacqua, who has advised leagues and college conferences in TV contract negotiations but was not involved in the NCAA's deals.

Emmert has said the NCAA has busi-

ness disruption insurance to cover some of its losses.

Bevilacqua said the long-running partnership between the NCAA and CBS, which has aired the tournament every year since 1982, and Turner could help the two sides find a resolution to any outstanding money matters

oney matters. "Maybe that allows for CBS and Turner to extend the deal by a year at some favorable rate whenever it ends," Bevilacqua said.

Sponsorship deals that companies have with CBS and Turner to run advertisements during games are typically structured similarly to the rights fees. If the spots don't run, the sponsors don't have to pay.

Typically, the money flows from sponsors to the networks to the NCAA to the schools.

"Every one of those steps has to be worked through to determine what is going to happen here. And that has to happen in conjunction with the insurance conversation," said Greg Shaheen, a former NCAA executive who oversaw the men's basketball tournament. "And the insurance company is going to, I'm certain, want to say to the association: "You know, we want to make sure that you get every penny you potentially are entitled for out of your contracts before we just roll over and pay some amount."

The NCAA distributes 60% of its annual revenue to schools, including shares called units distributed to conferences and determined by how many teams from a league reached the tournament and how many games those teams won.

Last year the Division I Basketball Performance Fund doled out \$168.8 million.

The NCAA and the richest and most powerful conferences, such as the Big Ten and Southeastern Conference, should be able to take any possible financial hit that comes from the men's basketball tournament not being played. All the Power Five conferences have billion dollar TV deals, with football as the centerpiece.

Those mid-major conferences, the ones that usually get only one team in the tournament, and rely heavily on the few tournament units they accrue, could really feel the pinch of the lost revenue.

"We have had that question arise, how revenue will be affected?" Atlantic Sun Commissioner Ted Gumbart said. "And the simple answer is, it's going to be affected and we have to realize that it's an unprecedented situation and we may have to make some changes."



NATI HARNIK/AF

Official March Madness 2020 tournament basketballs are seen in a storeroom March 16 at the CHI Health Center Arena in Omaha, Neb.



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Seton Hall's Myles Powell shoots against Villanova's Saddig Bey during a game on March 4 in Newark, N.J. Instead of entering the NBA Draft a year early, Powell averaged 21 points a game for the 21-9 Pirates this season.

# No tourney, no regrets for Seton Hall's Powell

By Tom Canavan Associated Press

Preseason All-American Myles Powell has no regrets about returning for his senior season at No. 16 Seton Hall despite the Big East and NCAA tournaments being canceled because of the spread of the new coronavirus.

Even without making a run at any titles, Myles said Monday that winning the Big East's player of the year award, having the Pirates share the regular-season crown and deepening his bonds with teammates met all his expectations. "My head is up high," said Powell, who

"My head is up high," said Powell, who decided to return so he could become the first member of his family to earn a college degree. "We had a great season. I am just trying to keep my head up high."

Powell averaged 21 points a game, the second-most in the league and 17th best in the country, to help the Pirates earn a share of the program's first regular-season championship since 1993. The guard from Trenton, N.J., was at his best on the road, averaging 25.8 points in leading the Pirates (21-9) to a 7-2 mark in Big East play.

Seton Hall never spent a day out of first place throughout the league season, finishing tied with No. 7 Creighton and No. 11 Villanova.

Even after the Big East canceled its postseason tournament at halftime of a quarterfinal at Madison Square Garden between Creighton and St. John's, Powell still believed there would be an NCAA Tournament

That hope ended hours later when the team returned to campus and assistant coach Grant Billmeier gave him a hug, saying: "Thanks for everything."

"That's when my heart started to get

"That's when my heart started to get heavy and I realized that it might be all over," Powell told reporters on a conference call Monday.

He said he has not thought much about

If I sat down with a couple of guys from the NBA and the GMs and they told me that another year in college would help me and make me a better player, I would do that.?

Myles Powell

the future. He wants to play in the NBA. Some coaches and athletic directors are urging the NCAA to give seniors another year of eligibility, which it has said it plans to do with spring-sport athletes.

"I don't know how much more I could accomplish if I came back to Seton Hall," Powell said. "If I sat down with a couple of guys from the NBA and the GMs and they told me that another year in college would help me and make me a better player, I would do that."

For now, Powell is just trying to stay in shape and be cautious during the pandemic.

He and his teammates went to coach Kevin Willard's house for lunch on Sunday to celebrate the season. They ordered from one of their favorite restaurants. They had their conference championship trophy and wore their March Madness shirts, which they had made for Selection Sunday, the day the NCAA Tournament's 68 teams were supposed to be announced.

"Just to get another day in the same room, full of smiles and everyone in good spirits, that really helped a lot," Powell said. "That championship trophy, it just reminded us of what we accomplished this year."

# HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Senior L.J. Scarver and E.J. King's track and field team won't get the chance to compete this spring, as DODEA Japan announced Thursday it was shuttering its spring sports schedule.

# lonescu an All-American for third time

By Doug Feinberg Associated Press

NEW YORK - Sabrina Ionescu has joined an elite group, becoming a three-time All-American.

The Oregon senior shattered the NCAA career triple-double mark and became the first player in college history to have 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists. She earned a spot on The Associated Press women's baskethall All-America team Thursday as a unanimous choice from the national media panel that votes on the Top 25 each week.

She was joined on the first

team by Oregon teammate Ruthy Hebard, Baylor's Lauren Cox, Kentucky's Rhyne Howard and UConn's Megan Walker.

Ionescu is the eighth player in women's basketball history to earn AP All-America honors three times. The last was South Carolina's A'ja Wilson.

"Sabrina is a transcendent basketball player," Oregon coach Kelly Graves said. "There's really nothing that she couldn't do on the court. She was the ultimate leader.

Baylor's Brittney Griner, Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw. Duke's Alana Beard, Oklahoma's Courtney Paris and UConn's Breanna Stewart and Maya Moore are the only other players to earn first-team honors at least three times. Paris and Moore were All-Americans all four years.



unanimous choice for the AP All-America haskethall team

Ionescu averaged 17.5 points 9.1 assists and 8.6 rebounds this season as well as having eight of her 26 career triple-doubles.

Hebard was on the receiving end of many of those passes and averaged 17.3 points and 9.6 rebounds to help the Ducks win the Pac-12 regular season and conference tournament.

"I'm happy for Ruthy. Some-times she gets overlooked. She's so darn good and important to what we do," Graves said.

Cox earned first-team honors for the first time. The senior post averaged 12.5 points and 8.4 re-bounds while blocking nearly 2.7 shots a game.

Howard did nearly everything for Kentucky this season. The sophomore guard averaged 23.4 points, 6.5 rebounds and hit 84 three-pointers.

Walker gave UConn a firstteamer for the seventh consecutive season. She averaged 19.7 points, 8.4 rebounds and shot 47.7% from the field.

# **Sports halted in Pacific**

# Season canceled in Japan, might return elsewhere

By DAVE ORNAUER Stars and Strines

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa - Just hours after DODEA Europe canceled its spring sports season, DODEA's Japan district announced Thursday that it was clearing its sports calendar due to worries about the spread of coronavirus.

The announcement came the same day that DODEA Japan and DODEA Okinawa officials announced that classroom instruction would be halted from March 20-April 10 due to coronavirus

DODEA Okinawa is also shutting down high school sports, but only through April 13, the first day back at school after spring break, DODEA Pacific chief of staff Todd Schlitz said.

He added that DODEA Korea could begin its own interscholastic activities that day as well. DODEA Korea schools have been shuttered since Feb. 26, with on-line instruction now in its fourth

"This is tough," Schlitz said of the decisions made Thursday, adding that the coronavirus and its effects "have changed our entire operation. I feel sorry for the senior class this year.'

The decision to cancel Japan spring sports was made in an announcement by DODEA Japan district community superintendent Dr. Gregg Mowen. It was released Thursday and a copy was obtained by Stars and Stripes.

According to the statement, travel to athletic events in Japan is generally done by aircraft or long-haul buses. Japan is designated a Center for Disease Control and Prevention Level 2 location, under which travel is restricted until May 11.

"The Pacific East spring sports season officially ends May 15-16," Mowen's statement said "Thus it is with this information that the decision was made to cancel" the DODEA Japan spring sports

Reaction to the announcement was one of almost universal sadness among coaches and athletes.

"There were many tears in here today," said Dan Galvin. coach of defending Far East Division II track and field champion

Yokota. He teaches math at the high school

"Sad. Unbelievable. Very disappointing," said Manny Duarte, coach of defending Far East Division II girls soccer champion Zama. "The girls were looking forward to this time of year."

For seniors, in particular, the cancellation means losing incentive and some of the once-in-alifetime things that will be gone forever, senior distance runner Jalynn Kaufmann of Perry said.

The cancellation gives some kids no motivation and reason to work hard anymore," she said. "The cancellation of senior activities is something that we will never get back and it really hurts to think about."

Others, while upset that they lost the rest of their seasons, said they were trying to keep things in perspective.

"I really wish the circumstances were different, but it's just a part of life," Yokota junior soccer player Emina Garcia said. "Things happen and we have to get over them."

# Reaction in Europe one of universal disappointment

By Gregory Broome Stars and Stripes

DODEA Europe coaches and athletic directors are reacting with universal disappointment as they grapple with the reality of a spring without sports.

The possibility of DODEA Europe canceling its entire slate of spring athletics - soccer, baseball, softball and track and field had been growing as the coronavirus spreads across Europe and forced an unprecedented response from local and national governments. On Wednesday, a series of incremental cuts to each sport's schedule was replaced by full-stop announcement from DODEA Europe athletic director Kathlene Clemmons that the entire spring season would be canceled before it could begin.

At the school level, thoughts turned quickly to the players, particularly those senior student-athletes who have suddenly played their last game in a DODEA Europe uniform.

"My heart goes out to them and their families," Bahrain athletic director Brant Tryon said. "They are most definitely devastated by the news and are trying to find ways to deal with the decision."

Wednesday's announcement was far from a surprise for anyone following the spread of the coronavirus and its long-term disruption of seemingly every form of conventional public life.

The news was obviously not shocking, but it is heartbreaking nonetheless. 7

> **Justin Bates** Kaiserslautern baseball coach

But the official announcement still had a profound impact.

"The news was obviously not shocking, but it is heartbreak-ing nonetheless," Kaiserslautern baseball coach Justin Bates said. "All of the seniors' hard work was supposed to culminate now, at the pinnacle of their school-age careers. There is nothing we can say or do to give them their senior year back."

Stuttgart softball coach Brandy Mosby said she was moved to tears by the official announcement despite being well aware that it was all but inevitable.

"My heart aches for the athletes, coaches, parents and fans everywhere," Mosby said. "My deepest sympathies are for the high school seniors who were ready to rock their final season."

While crestfallen by the news, coaches and athletic directors reached for comment Thursday agreed with a DODEA Europe decision that falls in line with measures taken worldwide by sports leagues at every competitive level.

Ramstein boys soccer coach Dominik Ludes called the cancelation the "right decision under the current circumstances" even as he lamented the lost opportunities for the seniors on his side. "As hard as this will be for

those athletes, I think we also have to keep things in perspective." Ludes said. But accepting that rationale in-

tellectually is easier than accepting it emotionally.

We are fully aware that it was not an easy decision for those that made it and we understand why the decision was made," Naples athletic director and softball coach Amy Driscoll said. "But it still stings.

Ultimately, sports may still be a source of solace for student-athletes even in the open-ended absence of any games to participate in or even watch on TV. After all, sports are meant to foster perseverance and determination in the face of adversity and those capacities are being tested this spring in a real-world way.

"I'm heartbroken for the kids," Driscoll said. "But they are resilient and they will overcome."

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# **Silver: NBA looking** | **Leave:** Many Hall of Famers move on at games utilizing quarantined players

By TIM REYNOLDS Associated Press

The NBA is considering an idea where some players would be quarantined or isolated for purposes of being able to compete against one another and provide haskethall fans with some sort of diversion from the coronavirus pandemic.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver revealed that notion as one of several items under consideration by the league right now during the shutdown caused by the pandemic. Silver made the comments in a televised interview on ESPN

'Maybe it's for a giant fundraiser or just for the collective good of the people," Silver said. You take a subset of players and is there a protocol in which they can be tested and quarantined and isolated in some way. People are stuck at home. They need a diversion. They need to be entertained."

Silver offered no predictions on when NBA games would resume. He said the league may, when conditions allow, resume games but without fans — a move the league was going to make last week before Utah's Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19 and prompted the league to go on what it thought would be a hiatus, not a stoppage that is certain to reach multiple weeks and likely

Silver, as he often does, said he hopes the NBA can be a conduit to spark positive change in the country — especially now when there will be a real need.

'One thing I'll say about the United States ... we're an incredible country and some of the greatest inventions, some of the best innovations, some of the best minds are in this country," Silver said. "And I'm sure as people are sitting home but still working they're thinking of these various things like how can we restart the economy and what role can the NBA play?"

Silver also said he doesn't know when play can return. The NBA has said the shutdown will be at least 30 days, though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has subsequently said it recommends no gatherings of more than 50 people take place before mid-May.

"I don't have a good enough sense of how long a period this is going to be," Silver said.

In other matters discussed:

# Team testing

Silver said eight full NBA teams have been tested for the coronavirus, which is more than was previously known, as well as members of other teams who

# Tests criticized

LOS ANGELES - A handful of NBA teams, including the Lakers, have offered coronavirus testing for their players since Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert became the first to test positive March 11, whether they have symptoms or not, providing them a service that isn't avail able to the general public.

As more stories emerge of the nationwide shortage of testing, there was a backlash to the teams' access to testing. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio was among the critics.

"We wish them a speedy recovery," de Blasio said on Twitter. "But, with all due respect, an entire NBA team should NOT get tested for COVID-19 while there are critically ill patients waiting to be tested. Tests should not be for the wealthy, but for the sick."

- Los Angeles Times

were showing symptoms. The Brooklyn Nets, Oklahoma City Thunder, Utah Jazz and Toronto Raptors have said publicly that they have been tested; the Los Angeles Lakers indicated Tuesday that they would be tested. The Detroit Pistons said a player was tested; that player, according to a person with knowledge of the situation, was Christian Wood, who tested positive.

Silver stood by the decisions teams were making to get tested even amid criticism

"People were not taking these protocols all that seriously until the NBA did what it did." Silver

# No predictions

Silver would not offer a percentage guess as to his level of certainty that play will resume this season.

"I'm optimistic by nature and I want to believe that we'll be able to salvage at least some portion of this season," Silver said.

Silver said the league will "try by every means that we can to play basketball again soon, though insisted that public health officials will sign off on any resumption plan first.

Asked by ESPN host Rachel Nichols if the league would crown scoring leader James Harden of the Houston Rockets the scoring champion if the season wouldn't resume or if the league would go ahead with voting for the traditional end-of-season awards. Silver said "I'm not there yet. We'll figure it out. I hope I'm not just in denial, but I'm just not there yet."

with his own retirement. The reason, as announced by Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis: Former Tigers pitcher Dutch Leonard claimed Speaker, Cobb and Cleveland outfielder Joe Wood had conspired to fix a game between Cleveland and Detroit in 1919, Cobb maintained his innocence. "My conscience is clear." he said. When Leonard refused to testify in front of Landis, the commissioner reinstated Cobb and Speaker. But the Tigers released Cobb, and he played his final two seasons in Philadelphia, where he hit 343 and collected the final 289 hits of his career

#### Willie Mays

Primary team: New York and San Francisco Giants, 1951-72 (with much of 1952 and all of 1953 off for the Korean War)

Swan song: New York Mets, 1972-73

Mays defined the Giants on two coasts. He wore a New York uniform when he made the iconic, over-his-head catch of Vic Wertz's drive in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series, the year he won his first National League MVP award. He wore a San Francisco uniform when he hit 52 homers and won his second MVP award in 1965. He was a Giant.

Until, in May 1972, he wasn't After 2,857 games with the Giants, Mays, 41, was traded to the New York Mets for reliever Charlie Williams and \$50,000. A .304 hitter with 646 homers with the Giants. Mays' career finished with 135 games as a Met in which he hit just .238 and managed his final 14 homers.

# **Hank Aaron**

Primary team: Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves, 1954-74 Swan song: Milwaukee Brew-

ers, 1975-76

Aaron arrived in the majors when the Braves were in just their second season in Milwaukee, and he had the first of 20 straight all-star seasons with the team the following year. By the time the Braves moved to Atlanta for the 1966 season, he was a star - methodically climbing the career leader board in home runs by cracking at least 30 homers 15 times in a 17-season span. In 1970, he recorded his 3,000th hit as a Brave. And in 1974, he hit historic homer number 715 - breaking Babe Ruth's career mark - as a Brave.

But after that season, the Braves traded the 40-year-old Aaron to the Milwaukee Brewers reuniting him with a former city, though with a new franchise and new league. With the Brewers, Aaron broke Ruth's record for most runs batted in. But in two seasons back in Milwaukee, the man who hit 310 with the Braves managed to hit just .232 with 22 homers, and he retired.

#### Johnny Unitas Primary team: Baltimore Colts,

1956-72 Swan song: San Diego Char gers, 1973

Unitas represents so much

about football in Baltimore, First, of course, were the championships won in 1958, '59 and '70, when the Colts beat the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V even though Unitas was knocked from the game with a rib injury in the second quarter.

Unitas shared time with Earl Morrall in 1971, then was benched just five games into 1972. He was 40 years old, and could no longer play. His San Diego debut was a 38-0 loss to Washington in which he threw three interceptions. He played in only four more games, and retired after the season.

# **Bobby Orr** and Ray Bourque

Primary team: Boston Bruins (Orr 1966-76, Bourque 1979-2000)

Swan songs: Orr, Chicago Blackhawks, 1976-79; Bourque, Colorado Avalanche, 2000-01

Two of the NHL's best all-time defensemen also defined hockey in Boston during their stays there. Orr won eight straight Norris Trophies as the league's best defenseman as well as the 1970 and '72 Stanley Cups with the Bruins. Bourque won five Norris Trophies during 21 years with the Bruins. Their departures couldn't

have been more different. Orr's balky knees had limited him to 10 games in the 1975-76 season, but he wanted to return to Boston - and the Bruins wanted him back. However, Alan Eagelson, Orr's agent, orchestrated a deal to get Orr to the Chicago Black hawks, who were owned by one of Eagelson's friends. Orr's career sputtered in Chicago, where he played just 26 games over three seasons before his knee issues forced him to retire

Bourque's final chapter was decidedly better. Bourque served as a Bruins captain for 15 years but never won the Cup. With the club struggling midway through the 1999-2000 season, he requested a trade and was dealt to Colorado - in search of a chance to finally win a championship. He did so in 2001, still an all-star level player at age 40. He retired after that

# Joe Montana

Primary team: San Francisco 49ers, 1979-92 Swan song: Kansas City

Chiefs, 1993-94

Montana won four Super Bowls and two MVP awards with the 49ers, with his backpedaling, under-pressure touchdown pass to Dwight Clark in the 1981 NFC championship game beating Dallas and becoming one of the most memorable plays in NFL history.

In 1991, though, Montana suffered an elbow injury in the preseason. He missed all of that year and played only in mop-up duty in the final game of 1992. By that point, Steve Young had established himself as San Francisco's quarterback going forward. By April 1993, Montana asked for a trade, and the 49ers dealt him to Kansas City. By the start of the season, he was 37. He played in just 11 games that year, and his 60.7% completion rate was the second-lowest of his career as a starter. He finished his career the following year, completing 60.6% of his passes with 16 touchdowns nine interceptions. Chiefs made the playoffs in both of Montana's seasons with them.

# Michael Jordan

Primary team: Chicago Bulls, 1984-93 and 1994-98

Swan song: Washington Wizards, 2001-03

In 13 seasons with the Bulls interrupted by a detour into minor league baseball - Jordan won 10 scoring titles and six NBA championships. He was the MVP five times, the Finals MVP six times. He created an iconic logo that still thrives today. He's in the conversation as the best athlete of the 20th century.

And then he came out of retire ment with . . . the Wizards? At 38, his body was breaking down. He managed 60 games — and a career-low 22.9-point scoring average - before cartilage in his knee shut him down, and though he played all 82 games the following year (averaging 20.0 points), the Wizards went 37-45 both seasons and missed the playoffs twice.

# **Emmitt Smith**

Primary team: Dallas Cowboys, 1990-2002

Swan song: Arizona Cardinals, 2003-04

Smith led the league in rushing and was an MVP with the Cowboys, for whom he joined quarterback Troy Aikman and receiver Michael Irvin as the offensive core of a group that won three Super Bowls for Dallas. With the Cowboys, he broke Walter Payton's record for most rushing yards and Marcus Allen's record for most rushing touchdowns. He was an icon.

But in 2003, the Cowbovs did the unthinkable, releasing the 34year-old. Smith signed a two-year deal with Arizona, but he broke his collarbone in a game against his old team, Dallas, and played in just 10 games that season. He rushed for 937 vards in 2004, but averaged just 3.5 yards per carry and retired after the season.

# **Peyton Manning**

Primary team: Indianapolis Colts, 1998-2011

Swan song: Denver Broncos,

As a Colt, Manning won four MVP awards and a Super Bowl and threw 539 touchdown passes But when Manning missed all of the 2011 season because of a neck injury, the Colts released him in March and selected Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck with

the first overall pick in the draft.

Manning, 36, signed with the Broncos and led the NFL in completion percentage and passer rating his first year there. In 2013, he set NFL records by throwing for 5,477 yards and 55 touchdowns in winning his fifth MVP award. Manning's final season of 2015 was hampered by foot injuries and poor play, but the Broncos' defense led him to his second Super Bowl title, this one

# **Bears shake up QB spot with trade for Foles**

# Move gives Trubisky competition after a disappointing season

By Andrew Seligman Associated Press

LAKE FOREST, Ill. - The Chicago Bears added competition for quarterback Mitchell Trubisky by trading for 2018 Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles.

They also brought in a former All-Pro to boost their pass rush by agreeing to a five-year, \$70 million contract with Robert Quinn and have another former star on the way in tight end Jimmy Graham.

It's been a busy few days for a team looking to bounce back from a disappointing season that began with Super Bowl hopes. And while the NFL's new year kicked off Wednesday without the usual parade of official announcements because of concerns about the new coronavirus, the Bears all but confirmed the stories that leaked out.

They sent out three tweets citing NFL Network reports of the trade with Jacksonville for Foles and agreements with Quinn and Graham. In each one, the Bears added: "NFL policy currently prohibits teams from making any official announcements."

On Thursday, the NFL changed course and said it was allowing teams to announce agreements they have reached with free agents as well as trades.

The league has barred free agents from traveling to team facilities as well as travel by team personnel to meet them. Contracts can be sent digitally, signed by players, returned to teams and then submitted to the league to make them official. But the players also need physicals.

They could get them locally, but few teams would be comfortable with that ar-



MARK ZALESKI/A

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Nick Foles scrambles against the Tennessee Titans in a Nov. 24 game in Nashville, Tenn. The Jaguars sent Foles to the Chicago Bears for a compensatory fourth-round draft pick.

rangement. Changes were expected for the Bears. After all, they went from winning the NFC North at 12-4 in 2018 to finishing 8-8 and missing the playoffs for the eighth time in nine years.

Trubisky, for one, might be a little less

Though general manager Ryan Pace had No. 2 overall draft pick as the starter, he also

left the door open to bringing in a veteran to push him. The Bears agreed Wednesday to a send a compensatory fourth-round pick to Jacksonville for Foles, according to a person familiar with the situation.

Trubisky's yards (3,138), completion rate (63.2%), touchdowns (17) and rating (83) were all down from the previous year. And the Bears' offense ranked among the worst in the NFL.

The Jaguars are parting with the 31year-old Foles just over a year after signing him to a four-year, \$88 million contract that included \$50.125 million guaranteed. He broke his left collarbone early in the season opener, missed the next eight games and got benched in his third game back.

Rookie Gardner Minshew played well enough in his absence to make Foles expendable.

Lions agree

# No physicals means many deals are unofficial as NFL year begins

Tom Brady preparing to trade the red, white and blue threads of this century's most successful franchise for one of the NFL's bottom feeders served as the highlight of a topsy-turvy start to the league's new year Wednesday.

Like the rest of everyday life that's been upended by the new coronavirus pandemic, the start of free agency was anything but normal, with Brady's deal and most every other one in semilimbo.

Free-agent contracts and trades agreed upon in recent days or weeks won't become official until players can undergo physicals and sign their new deals — meaning they aren't being paid under their new deals. The NFL has barred travel to team facilities by free agents and also has banned team personnel from traveling to meet with players as a safeguard against the new coronavirus.

Several of Brady's ex-teammates are also leaving Foxborough and many of them are reuniting with former Patriots assistants Matt Patricia in Detroit and Brian Flores in Miami.

Jamie Collins Linebacker (three years, \$30 million) and defensive tackle Danny Shelton (two vears, \$8 million) are headed to Detroit, which acquired safety Duron Harmon from the Patriots. Linebacker Elandon Roberts is expected to follow linebacker Kyle Van Noy (four years, \$51 million) and O-lineman Ted Karras to the Dolphins.

A wrapup of the biggest deals: Dolphins: From tanking to banking, the Dolphins have been the busiest team on a spending spree, committing a whopping \$133 million in guarantees to seven players.

After making Byron Jones the NFL's highest-paid cornerback, the Dolphins also have agreed to deals with Van Noy, Karras, DEs Shaq Lawson and Emmanuel Ogbah, RB Jordan Howard and G Ereck Flowers. The value of the deals is more than \$222 million.

Broncos: A day after losing out on NT D.J. Reader to the Bengals, the Broncos made their second big trade by acquiring five-time Pro Bowl DL Jurrell Casey from the Tennessee Titans for a 2020 seventh-round pick, people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

Steelers: Pittsburgh turned the opening day of free agency into a family affair for the Watt family, agreeing to terms with OLB T.J. Watt's older brother, FB Derek Watt, on a three-year contract worth \$9.75 million.

Cardinals: Arizona bolstered its struggling defense by agreeing to deals with DL Jordan Phillips and LB Devon Kennard. But as has usually been the case over the past year in Arizona, the loudest buzz is surrounding the offense. Arizona's biggest move came on Monday, when the team added elite WR DeAndre Hopkins in a trade with Houston that sent RB David Johnson to the Texans.

Chargers: CB Chris Harris Jr. is remaining in the AFC West after agreeing to a contract with the Los Angeles Chargers, a person familiar with the situation



The Denver Broncos have unofficially acquired fivetime Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jurrell Casey from the Tennessee Titans. Most teams won't announce official signings until players pass physicals.

Saints: Veteran free agent safety Malcolm Jenkins has agreed to a four-year, \$32 million contract with New Orleans Saints. a person familiar with the situation

Jenkins returns to the team that made him a first-round draft choice out of Ohio State in 2009

Colts: The Colts have con-firmed they have acquired All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner for next month's firstround draft pick, No. 13 overall.

# to trade Slay to Eagles

Associated Press

The Lions agreed to trade cornerback Darius Slay to the Philadelphia Eagles, ending the standout defensive back's sevenyear stint in Detroit.

Agent Drew Rosenhaus confirmed the trade Thursday and that Slay has agreed to a threeyear, \$50 million extension with Philadelphia. The Lions drafted Slay 36th overall in 2013, and he earned All-Pro honors in 2017.

Slay wanted a new contract be fore last season and did not attend Detroit's mandatory minicamp. He ended up reporting to training camp and played well enough to earn a third Pro Bowl nod.

If there were any doubts about Slay's wishes, they seemed to be disnelled Wednesday night after ESPN reported that Detroit had reached an agreement with cornerback Desmond Trufant. Slay tweeted that he wanted out.

Slay has 19 interceptions in his NFL career, including two last

# **SPORTS**



# **Possibilities for play?**

Silver says NBA open to ideas: 'People need a diversion' » Page 54







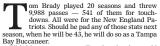


# **Curtain calls**



# Brady not first icon to leave team he defined





With his announcement Tuesday that he would continue his career elsewhere. Brady made New England fans sad and wistful. Ted Williams never played elsewhere. Larry Bird never played elsewhere. Bill Russell never played elsewhere. Why Brady?

Yet Brady's circumstances are hardly unique. Plenty of Hall of Famers across sports have been the identities of one franchise, but finished their careers somewhere else. There are so many that, to limit the length of this list, we have eliminated those stars who made more than one stop beyond their primary teams

So no Wayne Gretzky (Los Angeles and St. Louis

and New York after Edmonton), no Jerry Rice (Oakland and Seattle after San Francisco), no Brett Favre (Minnesota and New York after Green Bay), no Gordie Howe (Houston and Hartford after Detroit). But here are the best examples we could find, in chronological order from their rookie seasons.

# Ty Cobb

Primary team: Detroit Tigers, 1905-26 Swan song: Philadelphia Athletics, 1927-28

In his 22 seasons with the Tigers, Cobb hit an extraordinary .368 and had 3,900 hits, a total that has only been surpassed by Pete Rose. He won 12 batting titles in a 13-year span, hit .400 three times, won the Triple Crown in 1911 and became Detroit's player-manager in 1921. His career as a Tiger propelled him into the inaugural Hall of Fame class in 1936 with the highest percentage of votes

After the 1926 season, Cobb announced he would retire as player and manager at age 39. Curiously, Cleveland star Tris Speaker followed weeks later

**SEE LEAVE ON PAGE 54** 



# Inside:

- Bears shake things up with '18 Super Bowl MVP Foles, Page 55
- It's unofficial: Lack of physicals put deals in semi-limbo. Page 55

Top center: New England Patriots offensive linemen Ted Karras, left, and Joe Thuney, right, flank quarterback Tom Brady during the national anthem before a game in Denver. Pictured, clockwise from top right: Ray Bourque; Joe Montana; Bobby Orr; Peyton Manning; Johnny Unitas; Hank Aaron; Michael Jordan; and Emmitt Smith.





**TO OUR READERS** As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

